THE *FRENCH* ROGUE.

Being a Pleasant

HISTORY

OF

His LIFE and FORTUNE,

adorned with variety of other

ADVENTURES

of no less Rarity.

WITH

EPIGRAMS

Suitable to each Stratagem.

LONDON:

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TO THE READER.

IT was once publickly asserted by an old *Philosopher*, to his followers, that were so austere in their course of Learning, as to allow their Wits no recreation nor divertisement, and is a truth certainly undeniable: That as the richest soil by continual exercise, becomes at last barren and unfruitful, at the best answereth not the expectation of the Husbandman (not to instance in a thousand Similitudes of the like nature) so the

noblest parts of Men, if always entertained with the most serious and profoundest Notions, either over-prest with the weight, they crack; or clogged, they become dull and unapt to exert their proper Faculties.

Quod caret alternâ requie durabile non est,
Hæc reparat vires fessaque membra levat.

Says *Phædra* to her *Hippolitus*, then strengtheneth her Argument with a Similitude

Arcus & arma tuæ tibi sunt imitanda Dianæ,
Si nunquam cesses tendere, mollis erit.

But contrariwise, by seasonable pastimes, our faculties are so re-

created

created and well diſpoſed to their ſeveral operations, that they produce Effects moſt ſtrong and vigorous.

This makes me hope, kind Reader, that when thou art tired with thy more ſerious affairs, or deſire to be rid of ſome troubleſome thoughts that diſturb thy Quiet, thou wilt afford this *Little Rogue* ſome Minutes to make ſport.

Be not afraid to entertain him, 'tis not his deſigne to make thee of his Gang, nor is he a *Newgate-bird* that may at length pick out thy Eyes, or a Gipſy that may rob thee ſecretly. No, no, he's a *Pretty Rogue*, not guilty of Murther, and thoſe hainous Ballad-crimes that are as miſerably ſang every day in the ſtreet, as com-

committed, if they were true. Yet this I'll tell you; He lives by his Wit, and perhaps it ſhall coſt thee a ſhilling or two before thou get him; but what's that, when large ſums are daily given for Rogues that are Tranſported before they have play'd halfe ſo many pretty pranks as he hath done.

But I have the *Engliſh Rogue*, ſay you, and what need of a *French* one? In truth I can give no better anſwer to this objection then the common one; it is the Faſhion, and He's the better company for Ladies, and was it not ſo in the old Romans time, when they did *Omnia Græcè*.

In a word, 'tis this hath made me put him forth, and expoſe him to the publick view: for though

though I have calculated his Nativity, and find that this off-ſpring of idle hours is born to no good Fortune, but to be laught at and jeer'd: yet hang him, burn him, I ſhall never pitty him, he's a *French ROGUE.*

But hold, you have him not all, pray be not ſo uncharitable as to condemn him by halfs, there is ſomthing remains beſides what is here contained, and thy kind reception of this may be an encouragement to the continuation of it, and the manifeſting the reſt.

Farewel.

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Upon

Upon his FRIEND the Author of the *French* ROGUE.

THE Man that burnt the Temple got a name
Immortal, even as his that built the ſame;
Yet he did ill; by how much more ought we
To raiſe his Merit in our Elogie;
That onely paints out Vice, but paints it ſo
That Virtue in ſuch Cloaths might freely goe.
Such Wit and ſuch Invention here I find,
That if I judge according to my mind,
Virtue looks well; yet I am forc'd to ſay,
Night-Pictures *are as good as thoſe of* Day.

THE

THE FRENCH ROGUE.

CHAP. I.

His Education at Callais *in* Picardy, *at a Farmers-Houſe not far from the Sea, and what Pranks he plaid there in his Infancy.*

IT is a Wiſe Son, they ſay, *that knows his own Father*; but for my part, I knew neither of thoſe that had given me life; till having lived my firſt Seven years in a Farmers-Houſe at *Callais*, not far from the Sea; my

Courage increaſing with my Years, and my Nature daily manifeſting it ſelf more and more, did plainly evidence that I was not derived from the meaneſt Parents. I fought daily in the Street, upon ſmall or no occaſions; yet always came off with ſo much victory, that I was feared as much by the Neighboring Children, as I was complained of by their Parents. This cauſed me many Blows and Reproaches from the Old Man, who pretended he kept me on Charity, not knowing ſo much as my Father or Mother: Therefore I carried my deſigns more cloſely afterwards, not as before I had done by Open-Wars, but by Secret-Policy, which ſeemed naturally to be annexed to my Valour. Sometimes under pretence to play with thoſe that had any ways wronged or abuſed me, I accompanied them to ſome old Barn, a good diſtance from the Houſe, there would I ſhut them in, and leave them; that ſometimes they loſt their Dinners, ſometime their Suppers; nay, many ſtaid all Night ſore an hungred and afraid. Again, I would entice them to go with me to a ſmall Arm of the Sea to waſh their Feet, where making as if I fell off the Bank, I would pull

pull Three or four in after me; ſo ſweet was revenge to my tender age. A thouſand ſuch like Pranks, which either my wit could deviſe, or occaſion offered, I played every day: One amongſt the reſt I ſhall not omit, which will not ſeem altogether unpleaſant to the Reader; and yet be very neceſſary for the proſecution of my Story.

Remembring by my ſelf ſome Blows I had received of my Foſter-father, by the Complaints of his Son, a Child much of my bigneſs and age, I reſolved to ſhew him no leſs kindneſs, then I had to the reſt of my abuſive Companions; yet I was much puſled to effect it: For beſide that, he was the Darling, and onely Child of his Mother, ſhe alſo hated me, being an untoward Boy; ſo that I was not ſo often with him, as the other Children of the Neighborhood, and conſequently had the leſs opportunity to plague him, and bring my deſire to paſs; which nevertheleſs I brought to paſs by theſe means. A Gentleman, Son to the great *Noſtrodamus*, ſo much renowned for his Prophecies, by name *Ceſar Noſtrodamus*, an acquaintance of the Farmers, living ſome miles diſtant

from our Village, came one day to the Houſe to ſee us, when I by chance, ſent on ſome ſmall errand, croſt the Room where he was. He either taken with my Complexion, which was Sweeter, or Stature, which was greater then Children uſe to be of my age; or moved by the skill he had in Phyſiognomy, to paſs his judgment on me, calls me back, and no ſooner looked on me, but told my Foſter-father, That I had in me, both the *French Mercury*, and the *Engliſh Saturn:* I underſtood not at preſent that dark ſaying. He added alſo, That I reſembled much in Feature, a fair Gentlewoman living at *Bologne*, and married to an Old Merchant, and could be judged to be no other bodies Child then hers, were ſhe not accounted by her friends barren. The Farmer, I perceived, was ſomething puzzled at his words, but at laſt told him, He was wholly ignorant of my Parentage, and that he kept me more for my ingenuity and comely Feature, then any knowledge he had of my Birth and Deſcent. The Learned Man would have ſaid more, but the Farmer conſcious of a Truth which you ſhall hear hereafter; to divert the diſcourſe, calls up his own Son,

to

to ſee likewiſe if *Noſtradamus* would foretel any thing concerning him. He jeſting, ſaid, That when I loſt, he ſhould find; and that he ſhould get more by his folly, then I by my wit. Nevertheleſs he gave me * Five pence to encourage me, being an Orphan; and ſaid, Here, buy what you deſire moſt. I thanked him in better words, and with more civility then he could well expect from a Clown of my years; which increaſed his admiration ſo much the more, and ſo I left him.

* *Une piece de cinq ſous.*

CHAP. II.

The proſecution of the foregoing Story, Cæſar Noſtradamus's Prophecy, verified concerning the French Rogue, and the Farmers Son.

GOing down then to play with my Maſter's Son, I told him I knew of a great Nut-tree there by, whither, if he would go with me, we might ſtore our ſelves with Fruit enough to banquerupt,

our Companions (for it was our cuſtom then, as the *Old Romans* did, *Ludere par impar*) He as greedy of this booty as I ſeemed to be, or you may imagine Children are, went out with me; but inſtead of what I promiſed, I brought him to ſeveral Ditches and deep Pits, whence Gravel and Chalk had been dug; till at length, finding one fit for my purpoſe, unſeen by him, I threw in my Five pence, then feigning, that I diſcovered a piece of Money in the bottom of the Pit, I pretended, if I went down, I would have all; but he challenged half for being with me when I found it: At laſt, by my Propoſition we agreed, That he which went down ſhould have Three pence, the other Two pence; for I aſſured him, as well I might, it was a *Cinq ſous* in the Pit. Beſides, I being the ſtronger, pretended to be better able to pull and help him out of the Pit; for I knew he could not aſcend without me. But he was no ſooner in, then I ran away, crying out, as though one would have beat me. This hapned before Dinner. I came home and dined with the Servants, and by reaſon the Farmer and his Wife dined above with the Stranger,

Stranger, Whether they thought their Son was below, or the Servants that he was above; he was not miſt for the preſent, till towards night, that the Gentleman before-mentioned, went away; who again ſeeing me, asked me, What I had bought? I anſwered, A young fool, and had put him in a Cage to learn him more wit. He laughed heartily at my expreſſions, but without farther examination, having ſome miles to go, took his leave. The Farmers Wife ſoon after inquired for her Son, I went out of the way on purpoſe, that I might not be queſtioned where I left him; but it fell out happily, That one paſſing by that way had helped him out, and he came in crying, and complaining to his Parents of what had happened. I was called and examined, I pretended the Man, whoſe Field it was, would have beat me for coming there, which he could not but know, having heard me cry out; and that I would have told her, but that I could not come to her, being above at Dinner with the Stranger; beſides, I thought he could eaſily have got out. With ſuch like excuſes, for my Eloquence was nothing inferior to my Policy

in ſuch matters, I cleared my ſelf. Then were we made good friends again by dividing the *Cinq ſous*; whereof he for his folly had Three pence, and I which loſt it had Two pence; which made true the Gentlemans Prophecy of us in the firſt Chapter, *That when I loſt, he ſhould find*; and, *That he ſhould get more by his folly, then I by my wit*, which hapned in the diviſion of the *Cinq ſous*. Now becauſe I have made mention of *Cæſar Noſtradamus*, Son to the great *Aſtronomer*, I ſhall make bold to inſert briefly a true Prophecy of his Fathers, though not concerning the preſent matter, yet no leſs pleaſant as follows.

CHAP. III.

A Pleaſant Prophecy of the Great Aſtronomer Noſtradamus *fulfilled, by way of digreſſion.*

IT hapned that the famous *Michael Noſtradamus*, Phyſitian to *Charles* the Ninth of *France*, and the beſt *Aſtronomer* of his age, being in *Lorrain* in the Caſtle of

of *Faim*, belonging to the Lord of *Florinville*, Walking one day with the ſaid Lord in the Yard, ſaw two little Pigs, one White, the other Black: Whereupon the Lord inquired of *Noſtradamus* in jeſt, *What would become of theſe Two Pigs.* He anſwered preſently, *We ſhall eat the Black, and the Woolf ſhall eat the White.* The Lord *Florinville* intending to make him a lier, did ſecretly command the Cook to dreſs the White for Supper; the Cook then killed the White one, dreſt it, and ſpitted it ready to be roſted, when it ſhould be time; in the mean while having ſome buſineſs out of the Kitchin, a young tame Woolf came in, and eat up the Buttocks of the White Pig that was ready to be roſted: The Cook perceiving what was done, and fearing his Maſters anger, killed the Black one and dreſt it, and ſent it up at Supper. The Lord then merry and ignorant of what had hapned, *Well Doctor*, ſaid he, *we are now eating of the White Pig in ſpight of Fate.* *Not ſo ſaid* Noſtradamus, *I will wage, that it is the Black one upon the Table.* The Wager laid, the Cook was ſent for, and examined, who related all that had hapned, with much

much contentment and pleaſure to the Gueſts.

CHAP. IV.

How he ſerved a Butcher that had offended two of his Companions in his abſence.

BY this time I had gained by my Courage and Policy, that aw over the reſt of my Play-fellows, that I ſeemed rather their Commander then Companion; and the biggeſt of them deſpiſed not my Counſel, but rather ſought my help in their deſigns. It fell out one day, That a Ruſtick-Butcher driving ſome Swine before him in a narrow Dirty-lane, met two of my Companions, who deſiring him to ſtay till they were paſt a place more Muddy then the reſt, ſtopt the Herd. But he with the more vehemency drove them on, inſomuch, That one fell down in the Mire, and was trampled on; the other by leaping over a Ditch into the next Field, fell down and received ſome ſmall hurt. They came afterwards by our Houſe home, and relating to me all that was paſt, deſired

deſired my help againſt their Enemy. I councelled them to go home and change their Cloaths, and return with ſpeed to me, who in the mean time would find out ſome way to revenge. This I did, that they being clean, and in other habits, might not be known by the Butcher, or in the leaſt ſuſpected. In the mean time, I drove ſome of our Sheep together with their Lambs, excepting one Lamb, ſuppoſed to have been ſtoln or eat by the Woolf a week before, into the ſame Lane, by which I knew the Butcher muſt return. Then meeting with my Companions, we ſtood a good diſtance off the Flock, expecting our Enemies return. We no ſooner eſpied him, but we ran to our Houſe not far diſtant, crying, *A Rogue was ſtealing the Lambs in the narrow Road.* We had then at home two luſty young men belonging to the Old Farmer, who running out preſently with long Poles, without farther inquiry, knocked him down, and hauled him to the Magiſtrate; where we being brought, according to agreement teſtified, *That he had driven the Lambs into a ſtraight place, and was laying hold on them, either to kill or carry them away alive.*

Our

Our words as of innocent and harmleſs Children, were taken before all his excuſes; who being found to be a Butcher that ſold to the Ships, was much ſuſpected. Being examined likewiſe, *What he did that ways*; he related, *That he was returning from driving a Herd of Swine to ſuch a place, and had never been that way but once the week before*; which was much about the time our Lamb was loſt. I preſently related the loſs of it to the Magiſtrate; this alſo the two young men affirmed; ſo that he being convinced of what he was not guilty, was forced to pay for our Lamb that was loſt, and go away contented with the ſore blows he had received, without the leaſt pitty of the hearers.

CHAP. V.

An ingenious Device, whereby he rob'd the Old Mans Orchard where he lived.

IT was about the time when Fruit grew ripe, that my Appetite could not be ſatisfied without the enjoyment of them, yet

yet ſtill I obſerved this general rule in all my Actions, to aim at the beſt: And thereupon, ſeeing in the Garden a *bon Chreſtian* Pear-tree, I affected moſt, as being a forbidden Fruit, (*Ruimus in vetitum nefas*) for every Pear was numbred, and the unkind winds blew not one off; whoſe place the Old Man could not find; whoſe loſs he mourned for, as much as thoſe few Hairs Old Age bereft him of. Beſides, the Wall was high, inſomuch, that the very Sea-men who had oft attempted it, could never ſcale it. Theſe Reaſons deterred me from taking of them, for no other could be ſuſpected, eſpecially ſince I oftentimes uſed to play in this Garden. I deferred my deſign therefore for the preſent, till one day walking in the Fields, where were many young Oaken Trees full of Acorns, I perceived many Swine rubbing themſelves at the bottom of thoſe Trees; I knew not the reaſon, till approaching near, I perceived the Acorns to drop, which they preſently devoured and began to rub againſt the Tree to ſhake down more. This ſubtility of the Bruit Beaſts, put a Period to my deſign in hand. For when I came home, I left

the

the Garden door open for two or three days on purpoſe that our Swine in the adjoyning Yard might enter. Finding one at length in the Garden, I climb'd the Tree, gathered moſt of the Fruit, and hid the beſt in a place I had deſigned for that purpoſe. I gave the Hog ſo much other Fruit in the Garden, that whoſoever had ſeen him, would by his Belly have gueſſed him the author of the miſcheif. This done, and my Pockets emptied, for fear of a ſearch, I ran in crying, *That the Swine by rubbing himſelf againſt the Tree, had ſhaken down and devoured the beſt Pears, notwithſtanding all I could do to drive him away.* This made the Old Man chafe and run faſter then ordinarily he could into the Garden, where finding the Swine under the Tree devouring ſome Relicks I had left him, ſuſpected nothing of the Plot, but drove him away, as ſorrowful as he came in angry, with threats onely to kill the Hog at *Chriſtmas.* This puts me in minde of an Old Monks Verſes to his Pig on the like purpoſe.

If thou wer't big,
My little Pig,

Then

Then thou ſhould'ſt die.
For why?
Becauſe of thy Voracity.
At Chriſtmas *ye*
(The Pig cry'd we)
Will bigger be.
And then ſhalt die, when thou art big,
Becauſe thou wer't more ſawce then Pig.

CHAP. VI.

How he deceived a Merchant.

IT was not long after the Preſſing of our Grapes (for we had a ſmall Vineyard belonging to our Farm, enough to ſerve our Family, and pleaſure our Friends) when the Old Man was pleaſed to give me a new Suit, *Chriſtmas* then approaching, which we celebrate Ten days ſooner then here in *England*. Another of my Companions, Son to a miſerable, covetuous Uſurer, had alſo new Cloaths at the ſame time. Our want of Money was alike alſo; mine, being an Orphan, was great; his being Son to a covetuous Father, was no leſs. I therefore who could never

never be confined to now and then a penny, often tempted him to endeavor ſomething on his Fathers Bags: He hating the Coveteouſneſs of his rich Father, was willing to have done it, yet ſtill deferred the performance. I met one day a Merchant knocking at our door, who having heard of our Vineyard, deſired to buy ſome of our Wine for his own drinking on Ship-board. The Farmer told him, the quantity of Wine which he made was ſo ſmall, that he never ſold, but kept it for his own uſe, or the pleaſure of his Friends. This opened the door to my deſires; for he was no ſooner gone, but I found out my Companion, told him, *I had a brave deſign, if he could by any means help me with ſome Bottles.* He anſwered after ſhort conſideration, *He had the Key of his Covetuous Fathers Seller, who truſted none but him; and that the next morning before he was up, we ſhould ſearch.* According to this appointment we came, and found all full but two great Leather Bottles, both containing about Seven Gallons; theſe we conveyed into an old Stable remote from the Houſe, and filled them about Three Gallons apiece, with Water

up

up to their necks which contained about a Quart, then thruſting down ſome Rags, we immediately poured Pitch over them, leaving room onely for a Quart of Wine, which I ſoon procured at home and filled them.

This done, I enquired the Merchants name, and got ſome knowledge of him: I then went to him as ſent from the Farmer, who, I pretended, was ſorry he had not ſold him ſome of his Wine, ſince preſently after his departure he was informed by a Gentleman both of his Quality and Countrey, but had now ſent him two Bottles full containing ſeven Gallons, which not being able to bring, I left with my companion at ſuch a place, whither if he would ſend two of his men he might have them. The Merchant having ſeen me at the Farmer's door, ſuſpected nothing of the Knavery, but thanking and intreating me civilly, ſent his men, who returned not long after with my companion: I told him then, as well he knew, the Wine was very new but very rich, and that if he kept it ſome time it would prove very well; he nevertheleſs taſted it, then ſtop'd the Bottles and ſealed them: we

returned well paid, and he ſatisfy'd, for we gave him no reaſon to complain with the Poet.

Cum peterem mixtum vendidit ille merum.

CAP. VII.

How he cheats the Farmer with whom he dwelt, of Twenty pounds.

I Had now entred the Mine and began to find out the uſe of Silver, and the way to ſpend it as faſt as I got it, which ſet my wits every day to ſeek for more. I caſt my Eyes into every door and on every perſon, nothing was rich, nothing precious, but I had a vehement deſire to it, this made me attempt many things in vain, for want of faithful Confederates, as Plate, Jewels, and the like things of great value.

At length having obſerved the great Trade my Maſter drove with ſeveral ſtrange Merchants for victualing their ſhips, and that great parcels of Money were oft brought home before him by our men, for ſometimes he was treated and ſtaid much

much longer. I got ſeveral ſuch bags of ſeveral bigneſs, and filled them with Peble ſtones and Lead to a juſt weight. Theſe I kept till occaſion offered it ſelf, which was on this wiſe.

A Spaniſh Merchant having bought many Swine of the old Man, invited him and his Family to a dinner on Shipboard: the Money in the mean time one of our men brought home by ſeveral parcels and charged me to ſtay till he brought the reſt: he was no ſooner gone but I emptied one, containing about 20 pounds of Engliſh Money, filled it with my Pebbles, and pieces of Lead, and left it whence firſt I took it; the Man return'd not long after with the reſt of the Money, and the old Man, his Wife, and his Son with him. I was then playing before the door, and gave no cauſe of ſuſpition, for oftentimes Money had been brought into our Houſe on this wiſe. The old Farmer put up his bags in his Cloſet, till ſome days after having occaſion to pay out ſome Money for Cattle, amongſt others, he brought down this Bag, when finding the deceit, and not miſtruſting the fidelity of his Servant whom he had found faith-

ful in more important matters, could attribute it to nothing but the Merchants ſubtilty, and with grief was forced to put it up for a Spaniſh trick.

CHAP. VIII.

He looſeth his Money by a pleaſant accident but recovereth it again by a witty ſtratagem.

I Was now ſtockt for many days, had not a ſiniſter chance interrupted my felicity; for my caution was ſuch, leſt I ſhould be found out, that I never reſted till I had privately removed my Treaſure out of the Houſe, which I did one day into an old rotten Tree half a mile diſtant from it: Thence as from *Fairy-land* I fetcht whatſoever I needed, and by giving ſome ſmall Gifts to my Comerades, either whoſe Courage or Policy I intended to make uſe of, I gained the good eſteem and opinion of all, but before I had enjoyed the fourth part of my Treaſure, it fell out that the owner of the Tree, had cut it down with many others for Chriſt-

Christmass Fuel: Never did the *Dryades* bewail the loss of the Sacred Oak *Eresicthon* fel'd, as I did the ruine of this Tree, my hopes were cancel'd, and I could have hanged my self had any Trees been left in the place.

Χρυσὸν ἀνὴρ εὑρὼν ἔλιπε βράχον αὖταρ ὁ χρυσόν,
ὃν λιπεν, οὐχ εὑρὼν, ἦψεν, ὃν εὗρε βράχον.

but I found none; then remembring what I had heard in the Chimney corner, of the Fryer that hid his Gold with this Super scription; *Hic Deus est*, but found next time when he came, *Resurrexit*, and an empty Chest, I was a little comforted by the memory of it, and breaking out into these words

(Since Sacred Tree thou wer't my Mammon's Cell,
I did believe that Gods in Woods did dwell.
And therefore I don't blame him if he went
With thee, to see thy Pyre was his intent.
He lov'd thee well that follow'd thee to death,
And I'le love him as long as I have breath.)

I resolved never to rest till I had either found out the owner and recovered my

Money, or by ſome ſtratagem got as much of his in lieu of it.

I went therefore the next day to ſee firſt if the owner would ſell the Tree, but I heard it was already cut in pieces and piled up for Fuel. This therefore not ſucceeding, I went inſtantly to the Man, faining that I had dream'd for ten nights together, which was then the number of my years; *That in ſuch a Tree there was a Treaſure hid, in ſuch a place, deſcribing both the ſhape of the Bag, and the colour of the Strings:* I added further, *That an old Woman appeared to me in my ſleep the tenth night,* which was that night before the Tree was cut, ſaying in theſe words, *I am ſorry, Poor Orphan Child, thou haſt not had the wiſdom to goe take and enjoy the Treaſure I laid up for thee, in the place whereof I have often admoniſhed thee; nevertheleſs if thou wilt at length believe me and goe to the owner, he ſhall certainly reſtore it, or be ſo plagued, that his death ſhall be more deſirable then his life, Farewel.* The Countrey man ſtrangely amazed at my words, and true deſcription of the Place, Tree, Bag, and all other circumſtances, confeſſed more out of fear then honeſty,

honeſty, he found ſuch a Bag in the ſame Tree, and therein the value of Five pounds, and thereupon gave me ſo much, who ſeeming ignorant of twice as much that he kept behind, thanked him and returned home well ſatisfied for the preſent. But I let ſlip no occaſion for the recovering of the reſt, for that ſame evening I ſent one of my faithful companions to ſtrew Henbane which I had prepared amongſt his Poultry in the yard, and the night being ſomewhat dark, I went my ſelf immediately with others of my companions to his Farme, where finding a young Colt of his in a Cloſe adjoyning to the Houſe, we forced his mouth open and put a ſtrong gag therein, many ſheep we ſerved the like cruelty, and to a fat Hog in a Stie we gave ſome Lees of Wine that I had brought for that purpoſe, and ſo departed till the next morning; then before day I ſtole from home and returning to the Cattle, ungag'd their mouth's, but the poor beaſts by the miſery they had endured all night, could not graze at eaſe in the morning, after their accuſtomed manner, but opening their mouth wide, after ſtrange poſtures

came bleating towards the Houſe, ſo that paſſengers ſtood ſtaring on them at a diſtance, judging them to have been bewitched: the Poultry likewiſe ſome reeling, ſome dead, ſome drooping, would have moved pity in any one; but above all the Swine in the Stie who had greedily devoured the Wine Lees, lay along ſo drunk, that all adjudged it to be dead. Theſe things ſeemed like ſo many Prodigies, and the report drew all the neighborhood thither, inſomuch that the poor man was almoſt diſtracted, then relating to his friends what he thought was the reaſon of this misfortune, was by all adviſed to ſearch for me preſently, and give me the reſidue of the Money: I was not long to be ſought for in ſuch an occaſion, for I was there preſent as one drawn by the news, and pretended by my feigned Tears in my Eyes to be very ſorry for his misfortune; he laying all the fault to his own diſhoneſty, gave me the reſidue to a farthing; and the next day when he ſaw the Cattle recover their ſtomachs, his Hog alive again, which ſeemed dead to all appearance; for by this time the intoxicating ſtrength of the Wine was ſpent,

ſpent, and ſome few onely of his Poultry dead, he rejoyced exceedingly, That he had eſcaped ſo well.

CHAP. IX.

Two Cheats he puts upon his Maſter, an Engliſh Gentleman.

I Had hitherto kept my treaſure from the knowledge of the Farmer, with whom I lived: but the noiſe of it now, was ſo ſpred abroad, that it reached his ear; nor was any Child in the Town, ignorant of my good fortune. He therefore commanded me, being young, and one that knew not the good uſe of Money, to commit my Wealth to his cuſtody: This grieved me much, though indeed I did but render him his own; then conſidering my ſelf, as miſerable now I had Money, as I was when I had it not, I found the Miſer ſpake true of his Gold.

Thy want is grief,
Thy preſence no relief.

This

This was my condition then, but like the growing Palm, I roſe with the more reluctancy againſt the weight that oppreſsed, endeavoring daily to be at my own Liberty, the Old Man ſeeing my inclination was to a looſe life, which in all probability would never ſucceed well; and having this parcel of Money of mine in his hands, was reſolved to lay it out to my good, eſpecially ſince the evil that hapned to the other Man, paſſed every where amongſt the people for a great judgment of God. He thereupon reſolved, either to bind me Apprentice, or furniſh me with Cloaths and Neceſſaries fitting me to wait on ſome Gentleman, putting the two ways of life to my choice. The latter pleaſed my ranging fancy beſt; for I could not be contented with a bit and a knock; and my Soul was to large to be confined to the narrow limits of a Shop and Yard.

I did not long want a Maſter, for an Engliſh Gentleman newly landed, wanted a Lackey that ſhould underſtand both Languages, *Engliſh* and *French*; the latter of theſe was natural to me, the firſt by oft converſation with *Engliſhmen*, which

which were always in our Haven, I had pretty well gained: So that this making for me, and my Feature and Age concurring, he took me to be his Servant for Eight Piſtols *Per annum*; which amounts in *Engliſh* Money to Six pounds. I had ſerved him three quarters of a year without conſiderable damage, except the ſtealing his Wine, and ſuch things as I could make merry with amongſt my old Comrades in his abſence, till at laſt I had gained ſo much of his good will, that I dared preſumptuouſly to abuſe it; which was on this wiſe. My Maſter hapned to make a journey to *Deep*, where he had Goods in a Ship that was to unload there, which gave me opportunity to ſearch in every hole, and to open all his Packets I could come at, amongſt the reſt, I found ſeveral pieces of Silks, whereof I choſe one, and bound up the Packet again ſo exactly, that the moſt curious eye could not have perceived the ſtring to have been ſtirred.

This ſtopt my appetite till ſuch time my Maſter came home, who amongſt the reſt of his Goods, brought two good *Engliſh* Horſes, wherewith he intended to travel

travel farther into our Countrey, I thought two Horſes too much for one Man, and reſolved to rid him of one, as faſt as I could, without giving him ſuſpition of my infidelity. My Maſter having uſe but for one of his Horſes, deſired the Old Farmer, with whom I dwelt, for there they were kept, to let the other run in ſome Paſture Ground of his; but it was ſo well fenced for fear of the Poor Seamen, who were continually lurking about the Town, to ſteal and pilfer what they meet next, that it excluded all poſſibility of getting him thence undiſcovered.

There was one Villain more notable then the reſt then at *Callais*, for want of Money to tranſport himſelf to his Native Country. Pretending therefore occaſion to go ſee ſome ſick Friend of mine, I begged leave of my Maſter, which he eaſily granted. Then went I to a poor comrade of mine, not acquainting him in the leaſt with my deſign, but deſiring him to lend me the worſt Cloaths he had, becauſe being to go by ſuch a Road to ſuch a place, I feared leſt I might be ſtript by ſome Villain of thoſe I wore. He ſoon granted me ſo ſmall a requeſt, and I

changed

changed there my rich Cloaths, for thoſe that were ſcarce eſtimable, χρυσεα χαλκειων. Thus arrayed and unknown by them that ſaw me, I went to the Sea ſide in ſearch of the perſon above-mentioned, who was wont to be there to help load and unload Goods brought in and carried out of the Port. I ſoon found him, for indeed he had no other houſe, nor ſhelter, then what the Shore by day, and the Rocks by night afforded. I had prepared my Speech with all the rhetorick I had to perſwade, ſometimes tempting him to this theft, by repreſenting to him his miſerable condition in a ſtrange Country, and how great his felicity would be, if he were in his own, which by this one action he might eaſily procure. Then I propoſed all the probability I had to effect it ſecretly, That I knew the Houſe very well, the Field, every paſſage and turning thereabout: Laſtly, That it remained on his part onely to get a receiver ready, when I ſhould bring it the next morning to the Sea ſide, in ſuch a Creek, about Two Miles from the Great Haven. He needed not much prompting to ſuch a wickedneſs, that would prove, in all probability, ſo

advantageous to his obtaining his liberty; nor was he long before he found a Receiver, being as I told you before, well skilled in this ſort of Knavery. Beſides, gain is ſo ſweet, and the thirſt of it ſo great, that there are few Ship-Maſters ſo honeſt, who will not for its ſake, or at leaſt under colour of obliging the Poor Seamen, whoſe caſe may happen to be theirs, buy any kind of ſtoln commodity. He bid me therefore, proſecute my deſign with the greateſt diligence and ſecrecy poſſible, and not to fail him at the place and time appointed the next day, where he would certainly expect me. I returned, changed my Cloaths, and came home: The next day, as I was wont every morning, I rid out the Horſe to breath him, but with far different intention; for he was never to return again to my Maſter. As ſoon as out of ſight, I reinveſted my ſelf with my rags, and rid directly to the place appointed. My comrade, on his ſide, had performed admirable diligence in preparing a Flemiſh Bark that was to ſet ſail that day, ready, and was already expecting my arrival. Things hitherto fell out exceeding well, when one of our Neighbors paſſing by

by might have diſcovered all, had I not ſuddenly before he could ſee me, given the Horſe to my comrade to hold. This I did with intention, that if he took any knowledge of me, I might afterward pretend the Horſe was forced from me, which I could not do, when I ſhould be known to have had it in my hand, and he but on foot. Nevertheleſs he paſſed by, not diſcerning who I was, being clouded in ſuch pittiful diſguiſe. We ſoon agreed with the Maſter for our price, by ſelling it at an under rate; for the Horſe, being worth about Twenty four Piſtols, which amounts in *Engliſh* Money to Eighteen pounds. I had for my ſhare Six Piſtols, and my Confederate as many. So he ſailed away well ſatisfied to his own Country, and I having hid my Money in the Field, with hopes of better ſucceſs then I had of my Firſt Treaſure, mentioned in the Eighth Chapter, Came crying home to my Maſter, who admired much my long abſence; but wondred more to ſee me come home in ſuch Rags, on Foot, and with Tears in my Eyes. Yet I ſo well feigned my grief, That I moved the Heart of the good Gentleman, he bid me there-

fore

fore relate, without fear, what had befel me, if poſſibly it might be remedied. Then intermixing a thouſand ſighs and tears, which the moiſture of my tender age ſupplied me with, I began on this manner.

It was the unhappineſs of your Poor Servant, and then I cryed, to ride out your Horſe this Morning as I was wont; and then I ſighed. But alas! And here I would have left off, and cryed again, had he not cheered me up, and bid me manfully to relate the whole Misfortune: A certain Villain, whether a ſtranger, or no, I cannot tell; but I am ſure he was a Rogue, came to me, and taking opportunity at the goodneſs of your Horſe, and my Cloaths; as likewiſe, my weakneſs, being but a childe, laid hold on my Bridle, pulled me off, and bound me, till having brought me to the Sea-ſhore, he firſt ſhipped your Horſe; then indeed did I expect to follow, and never to have ſeen my good Maſter more, or my Foſter-Father; but whether in compaſſion of my tears, or that he knew not how to diſpoſe of me, ſtript me of my good Cloaths, and putting me on theſe ugly Rags, bid me

me go learn to ſhift for my ſelf. And what ſhall I do for Cloaths! Theſe Rags! Well, my Boy, ſaid he, and could not but laugh, ſeeing my pretty Innocency in preferring my Cloaths of ſmall value, before the loſs of his Horſe, I ſhall provide thee better Cloaths. And thus by my diſſembling, I ſafely did conceal and bring my wickedneſs to its deſired effect.

So Sinon *once the* Trojans *did perſwade,*
To take the fatal Horſe the Grecians *made.*
My ragged habit like to his appears,
Such are my Sighs, and ſuch my feigned Tears.
In all things we agree, excepting this,
I took my Maſters Horſe, he gave them his.

CHAP. X.

His Night-Meetings with his old Companions, with his witty devices to rob his Maſter of his Wine, and Neighbors of their Poultry.

MY kind Maſter ſoon turned my Rags, into ſuch Cloaths as were worthy of the quality of the perſon I ſerved; and I went about my buſineſs with the ſame diligence I had formerly uſed, meaning thereby to rub out whatſoever ſuſpition my Maſter might have of my infidelity. I was always at his Elbow at home, and took opportunity for ſatisfying my deſires when he was abroad. Then did I meet with my old Companions, and according to every ones ſecret Conſpiracies; ſome brought Pigs, ſome Capons, Turkies, Geeſe, and whatever good cheer, either by ſtealth, or otherwiſe they could get. The procuring of Wine fell to my ſhare, by reaſon of the poverty of their Friends, and the richneſs of my Maſter, who kept ſtore of Wine in his Seller; yet his care of it was ſo great,

great, that it forced me to invent many ways to obtain ſuch large quantities, as our frequent meetings required. But our Wine being in Earthen-Veſſels of two or three Gallons, gave me opportunity to break them ſeveral times, when I had almoſt exhauſted them; and then when I had juſt occaſion to go down next into the Celler, I would ſpeedily return, crying, That either the newneſs, or the ſtrength of the Wine had broken ſuch a Veſſel, and if ſpeedy care were not taken, the reſt were in the like danger. He put his Wine at length according to our Countrey faſhion, in great Leather-Bottles, which are indeed more ſure and more commodiouſly Portable then thoſe of Earth. But alas, when the force proceeded not from an inward, but an external cauſe, this could in no wiſe ſecure them. For though they were new, and of ſtrong Leather, ſuch as could not be broken or burſt by the ſtrength of the Wine; yet I ſoon found out another invention with a Bodkin, ſo to prick their ſides till they loſt their deareſt Blood, and that the wound appeared to be the knawing of the Rats. For by reaſon of the newneſs of

the Leather, and ſomething wherewith it was greeſed on the out-ſide that ſmelt ſtrong, it could not have eaſily been perceived to have been done by any other cauſe.

This trade continued ſo long undiſcovered till our Seller was almoſt full with empty Bottles; then I dared to proceed no farther, but pretending want of Wine at that time; I changed my Office in our company, and took upon me to procure Poultry.

My firſt adventure was in a Neighbors Hen-houſe, which was at the end of a Barn, in their Yard; the one ſide towards their Houſe, the other towards the Fields; the latter I attempted, broke in through ſome thin Boards, killed ſo many, till by their often fluttering, notice was given to the owners by their Dog in the Yard, That the Fox was in the Barn; the People ran out with Lights and Staffs to the Door, but I had ſecured that, by ſtopping the Key-hole with Pebble-ſtones and Sand, and had time enough to retreat with my Booty in ſafety, having not far to go to our Club; where I had no ſooner related the proceſs of my theft, but I

was

was entertained by one of my companions with a ſtory no leſs pleaſant. He, watching about the door (for he had knowledge of my intention) no ſooner perceived the People to be run out to catch the Fox in the Barn, but he ſlipt into the Houſe, where a fat Gooſe was roaſting by the Fire; this he took, Spit and all, and brought it away undiſcovered, which made me ſay.

Poor Fools, to think your Gooſe was ſure
In open Houſe, when Locks could not ſecure
Your Hens. Know then the Fox loves both,
A Roaſted Gooſe, as well as Cock in Broth.

CHAP. XI.

Two notable Pranks he Plays at an Inn in Callais.

THe pleaſant mirth I found at the aforeſaid Meetings, and the leiſure I had to follow them, by reaſon of my Maſters buſineſs, which often called him

abroad; and the good ſucceſs of my firſt attempt, ſpurred me on to a ſecond adventure of the like nature.

There was an Inn not far off, which for the accommodation of Merchants and Strangers that arrived at our Port, was always furniſhed with great ſtore of delicate Viands. Hither I came accidentally to drink with my companion that in the ſtealing away my Maſters Horſe, had lent me his Cloaths, and was conducted by the ſervant of the Houſe into the Kitchin to the Fire. The Chimney was ſo large as to contain one in each Corner, and the Weather being ſomething cold. I placed my ſelf there, where caſting up my eyes accidently, I eſpied great number of Neats Tongues; and then pretending the Fire to be over-hot, I deſired another Room, and called up for more Wine: Afterwards I imparted my minde to my companion, and the deſire I had to thoſe Tongues, nor was my invention far from my deſire to obtain them; for I preſently agreed, That I would feign my ſelf in a Swound, and that while the People came up to my ſuccor; he under colour to go fetch my Friends, might carry away what he pleaſed.

ſed. The Plot took well, for I ſo acted the Dead-man, that I employed all the People of the Houſe to fetch me to life. My companion was, in the mean time, as nimble as I ſeemed immoveable, and had conveyed away, under his Coat, ſix of the beſt; and then returned in great haſt, that he could not find my Maſter; at that, the beſt way was to ſend me home in a Chair. But at his return I ſeemed to come to my ſelf, and by degrees grew better and better. They would have ſent their Man with me home, but not deſiring his company, I ſaid, *That I had been uſed from my infancy to have ſuch fits; and was as well after them, as before them; being troubled onely for that time they came on me?* Then paying my reckoning, with thanks for their pains, in my recovery, I took my leave. But the half dozen proved ſo well, that provoking my appetite, they bred in me a luſt for more, and cauſed me to attempt the reſt, which was on this wiſe.

Paſſing often before the Door, I ſaw one day a great tumult there, and approaching, perceived that two Sea-men fell out with the Hoſt; who ſeemed not

ſatisfied for a Dinner they had had that day, they cryed, *They were cheated, and would pay no more*; at laſt it came to blows; and the two Men, oppreſſed with the multitude of Townſmen that took the Inn-keepers part, paid by ſuffering what remained of their reckoning, and ſo departed diſcontented, as you may imagine, at ſuch open ſhame. I went therefore that ſame Night, and fired a little Barn belonging to the Houſe, and went my ways, till ſuch time the Fire blazed out, then came I with my companions, as moſt of the Neighborhood did, to ſee that ſad accident. For though indeed there was no farther danger, then of the Barn, being ſeparated from the reſt of the Houſe; yet ſuch is the fear of people in ſuch a calamity, that their Doors were all opened, and they began to remove their Goods all out of their Houſes. Here we had opportunity enough, whileſt they minded to pack up their beſt Goods, for what we intended, and beſides got a conſiderable booty out of many other Houſes; eſpecially the Poultrey ſeemed to be vaniſhed away in the fright, for we had conveyed away above Twenty Chick-

ens,

ens, and Twelve Geese and Turkies, which afterwards we enjoyed.

CHAP. XII.

A very ingenious device whereby he clears two Seamen taken on suspition to have set the Innkeepers Barn on fire.

THe Fire for want of more Fuel ended with the Barn, and the tumult was appeased till the next morning, then the Inn-keeper supposing, that it came by two Seamen, whom he had the day before injur'd, resolved to prosecute them, and thereupon made diligent search and inquiry after them, which he could easily doe being acquainted with most of the Merchants and Ship-masters that used our Port. He had no sooner apprehended them, but he brought them before the Magistrate, and swore against them, which caused them, notwithstanding their just excuses to expect the rigor of the Law in such cases, Having heard of these proceedings, I immediately went to the place of Judicature, and desired to be heard, which

which being permitted, I began in this wise.

GENTLEMEN,

Though none here is ignorant of the late Fire that ſeized on this mans Barn, yet the cauſe is totally hid from you. For it happens in ſuch caſes oftentimes, that by ſome foregoing paſſage we miſtake the cauſe of the thing: So have I heard of a Gentleman that bought the Hat of a murdered Perſon for a new one ignorantly, and being afterwards found with it on his head, was proſecuted by the dead mans friends, and loſt his life, *and theſe two poor men, ſtrangers to you and me, becauſe they quarrelled the day before with this man, are thought to be the Authors of what they never did, and to have revenged themſelves on his Houſe for the abuſe done to their perſons. This makes me bold in their juſtification, being innocent of that ſad accident of which you ſhall know both the Author and the Cauſe, who hath not feared to offer himſelf to protect and ſet free the innocent. I was paſsing by your Barn, Sir, with a Torch in my hand, the night being obſcure, in haſte, and knockt it againſt the corner poſt, ſo that*

I left

I left ſome burning upon the ſide of it. For indeed my Childiſh ſimplicity had not yet furniſhed me with that caution to put it out, and my buſineſs called me away too haſtily, for I found at my return the Barn in a-blaze, which I ran to inform you of, but before I came it had diſcovered it ſelf by its fearful operations. It was not therefore ſet on fire by Counſel or Conſpiracy, but by accident; not by any envy theſe men intended, or revenge they deſired, but by my negligence: inflict therefore the puniſhment you deſire on the guilty offender, but let the innocent goe free; for I would ſuffer any thing patiently rather then endure to ſee ſo great injuſtice done to people that in no wiſe deſerved it; and here I offer my body, for I am an unhappy Orphan, and can make no reſtituion by money or Goods, to ſuffer the penalty of my Crime. My Words and the Ardency wherewith I ſpake them, cauſed great admiration to the hearers; all applauded and wondred at me: the Inn-keeper heartily thanked me that had kept him from ſo great wickedneſs as he ſhould have committed in putting two innocent men to death, and forgave me what I had done; and the Magiſtrate ſent away the two Seamen

Seamen free, and all went away with great content and admiration.

Now all's ſecure, the Fire's out, and you
Seamen, that felt the ſtorm but nothing knew,
Depart in peace, the worſt of danger's paſt.
So after a tempeſtuous Sea, at laſt
Our ſafety's ſeen, by Fire about the Maſt.

CHAP. XIII.

How he leaves Callais *and goes with his Maſter to* Diepe *in* Normandy, *thence to* Rouen, *and what hapened to him there.*

HItherto my good fortune crowned me with continual ſucceſs, and above all, my laſt adventure had brought my Maſter into ſo good an opinion of me, that he reſolved to take me with him in his Travails to *Diepe* and other parts of *France* that he intended to viſit. My roving mind as it always had a deſire to novelty, agreed with my Maſters propoſition; and the old Man my Foſter-Father, whether

whether willing to be rid of me, or thinking it might prove to my good, consented to it.

It was not long before we Landed at *Diepe*, a Haven-Town in *Normandy*, built on an Arm of the Sea, between two Hills, which secures the Haven, both from the violence of the Weather, and the attempts of Forein Enemies. The Town lies within these Mountains a quarter of a Mile up the Channel. On the top of the Hill is a strong Castle, commodiously seated, both to defend and command it. Here I saw one rarity I shall not omit, it was a Mans Head that had been found in an old Ruinated Wall, inclosed in a Pewter-vessel made for that purpose; it had continued there according to the inscription, Three Hundred years and more, yet the Flesh appeared firm, and retained the countenance of a Warrier with a great Scar, even from his Forehead to his Chin. This was all I saw there, and by reason of our short stay, could act nothing worthy of the relating.

Next day we set out for *Rouen*, my Master rid on his English Horse, but for my part, I could get none for Money, and so

ſo was forced to ride in a Chariot, where the dirt ſo plagued me, That I repented very much I had ſold my Maſters Horſe at *Callais* in *Picardy*; but bore it patiently as the reward of that injury. We arrived at laſt at *Rouen* in an old Inn, and for our Supper was brought up a Rabbet ſo tuff, that my Maſter could not eat it; then they brought us an old Hen, which was ſcarce eatable. This made me fear a change of Fortune, and that I was now to expect Miſery; for I had already found the want of the Horſe I ſo wickedly ſold, and had now before me ſuch a Supper, that I could ſcarce tare in pieces, which ſeemed to be a puniſhment for my theſts of Pullets.

The City *Rouen* is large, and very pleaſantly ſituated betwixt Mountains on three ſides, it contains Thirty two Pariſh Churches, beſides Abbeys and Relligious Houſes, which cauſed my Maſter, whoſe buſineſs was onely curioſity, to ſtay two or three days. Inquiring out the rarities of the place, we were informed of a pretty Houſe in the Town, that a Gentleman, by name *Boniface*, of obſcure Parents, which had raiſed himſelf to a fortune in the

the Wars, had built to be an *Asylum* for his age, this we went purposely to view. It was built like a Half Moon, and the Wall that inclosed the Court before the Door, made a perfect Circle. On the outside, round the House, was a good Border of Ground, a dozen Yards square planted, with most pleasant Flowers and choice Fruit; then a clear Moat well stored with Fish, which secured the rest. On a Gallery of the House, I read this Inscription, *Tentanda via amore & armis.* A Motto well agreeing with his fortunes, and seeing one that I took for good admonition, and resolved since I was ignorant of my descent, as he had been, to make him my example. My Master very much pleased with the House, was no less desirous to see this Gentleman, whose device he much admired; and thereupon knocked at the Door, and indeed we found, that though the outward appearance had promised much, yet very little in comparison to the Master, whom we found a person most generous and civil, something taller then the common sort of men, his visage was adorned with a grace, That though his age was great, shewed him plainly to

be

be both valiant and generous, he entertained us the whole Afternoon with the greateſt civility imaginable, underſtanding that my Maſter, was an Engliſhman (for he was of the ſame Nation) and forced us by his intreaties to ſtay Supper; where we had plenty both of coſtly Meats and Wine; till Supper being ended, he was pleaſed at my Maſters deſire to relate the Hiſtory of his life.

CHAP. XIV.

The pleaſant Hiſtory of Boniface *and* Clora.

IF happily the Fame of the Duke of *Biron* which I think is now ſpred over the whole world, hath reacht your ear; A man who at fourteen years old was Colonel of the Switzers in *Flanders*, a little after Marſhal of the Camp, then Marſhal General; at the Siege of *Amiens* he was ſole Lieutenant of his Majeſties forces, though there were many Princes of the Blood in the Army; and to compleat his greatneſs he was Peer of *France*, and

and the Barony of *Biron* erected into a Dukedome, this valiant man drawing up his forces by the Sea ſide, ſaw an Engliſh Ship ſhot through in ſeveral places in a ſinking condition, yet the kinder waves ſeemed to take compaſſion of what it bore and drove it towards the ſhore; the Dukes curioſity was ſuch, as to ſend out a ſmall Boat, either to help her or bring her to the ſhore, if no perſon were alive in her that could give account of her misfortune; they brought back word there were ſeveral dead bodies in her, but the reſt ſeemed to have eſcaped in the Boat which was gone, and onely one Child alive which they had brought; the Duke took me in his Arms, and it ſeems at the ſight of his Armour I ſmiled, which cauſed him to ſay I ſhould certainly prove a valiant man, that in the midſt of ſuch fortune ſmil'd in his arms, and therefore admiring my ſtrange preſervation, as one that was reſerved by the Gods for great matters, and taking it for a good *omen* againſt his enemies, gave order to two of his men to carry me with ſpeed to a rich Citizen at *Paris* who ſhould educate me with his greateſt dili-

gence : thus was I brought up with the greateſt tenderneſs and care, as if the Duke had been my Father, and was inſtructed according to his order in all the ornaments both of body and mind ; but I muſt confeſs my nature inclined more to the Battel then the Gown, and I ſo behaved my ſelf as to bear office under the Duke at the Siege of *Amiens*, being then ſixteen years old : but to relate the childiſh years of my Infancy, would but abuſe your patience, and loſe time, which would be better imployed in relating acts of greater moment ; yet let me ſay thus much, without boaſting, I ſo improved my ſelf in all exerciſes of Body, and Mind, that this moſt noble Duke who was certainly one of the moſt Generous in the World, loved me with extraordinary kindneſs, and made me companion to his Couſin *Florus*, a young Lord of *France* ; for though he was the handſomeſt youth I ever ſaw, and had an Air in his Countenance above the common ſort of Men, yet my Acts got me ſuch eſteem of all, that I ſeemed a companion moſt fit for his Quality : I gained indeed the love of the King for my ſervice done

done him; the good opinion of the Duke for the ſame cauſe, and the inclination of the Ladies, as well for that reaſon as my Feature, which was fairer then to let me eſcape the eyes of the faireſt; ſo that in the infancy of my Servitude, as oft as I went from the Generous *Florus* upon any Complement to the Fair *Clora* his Siſter, ſhe would aske me a thouſand queſtions, ſometimes how I liked the Court of *France*, ſometimes how her Brother did, and how I liked ſuch a Lady, or ſuch a Lady, and many other pretty queſtions, That I eaſily obſerved ſhe was ſomething pleaſed with my company, for when the Generous *Florus* ſent any other, ſhe onely returned anſwer unto the Meſſage brought her, though indeed ſeldom any was imployed but I, for I always deſired the honour of that Service. Thus as long as Infancy laſted, I was the happieſt in the world, till my Sixteenth year, then I went with the Duke to the Siege of *Amiens*, where my Acts were beyond belief of all but the Illuſtrious Duke, who knew it was poſſible to be both young and valiant; for he himſelf at Fourteen, had been Lieutenant of the

Switzers in *Flanders*. I was not dealt with therefore as others who firſt goe into the World; but on the contrary, at our return from Battle, was Treated as a Man of Noble Extract.

The Beauteous *Clora*, for every minute ſeemed a thouſand years till I ſaw her, held diſcourſe with me in a more reſerved way and leſs familiarity, though always with the ſame ſweetneſs. At that time the Lord *Florus* came in and interrupted us, juſt as by a bluſh of mine ſhe ſeemed to have diſcovered ſomething of my Paſſion: I wondred much to ſee him ſo ſad that was wont to be the moſt *debonaire* perſon alive, nay he had ſo much forgot himſelf, that he miſt of his due reſpects to the company; this made us depart ſooner then our company intended, and the Beauteous Lady, deſired me very much to get out of her Brother, whom ſhe moſt dearly loved, the cauſe of his grief; I that was willing to do any thing in her ſervice, to have the opportunity to ſee her again, promiſed my utmoſt endeavour, both to ſatisfy her demands, and bring the Generous *Florus* out of his ſerious melancholly. 'Twas the next day early in the

the morning, for he had taken but little reſt that night, when he came to my Apartment, and ſince I was his deareſt Favorite and Companion, he made me the onely Confident of his Paſſion, but in ſuch ſad expreſſions, that my ſoul was alſo much troubled in his behalf: for conſider, ſaid he, the croſneſs of this adventure, that I ſhould paſſionately be in Love with the fair *Iris*, whom ſo many Nobles Court. Ah fortune, ſaid he, is it not enough to give me ten Rivals, but I muſt have a thouſand, for whom hath ſhe ſeen that ſhe hath not captivated? Ah my Friend, ſaid he, you know not what Love is, yes replyed I, you have a Companion in your Miſery. Can *Florus* be unhappy and his Friend at reſt? doe not mock me, ſaid he, for you cannot harbor a paſſion without ſenſible alteration, or carry fire in your boſome without being troubled with it: yes, cry'd I, as long as you are my Friend, I ſhall never appear unhappy to the World, 'Tis on your welfare depends my health: Good Gods, ſaid he, are you then at laſt my Rival, and deſire me to be well, that is never to love the fair *Iris* more? The Gods

have directed my Eyes a better way, ſaid I, then to offend ſo generous a friend in deſiring to make my ſelf happy by his misfortune: Be happy then my Friend, replyed he, in thy deſires, ſince I cannot be happy in mine: yet clear me at once of all ſuſpition with the name onely of her you Adore: That would be, ſaid I, to incur the diſpleaſure of my deareſt Friend, and render my ſelf miſerable for ever: well then, replyed he, you have a dearer friend then *Florus* that you will not diſoblige, and a Miſtriſs that I muſt never know, though I have revealed mine to you; oh Friend, muſt this be the end of Amity, muſt I then renounce my Friendſhip and good will towards you, whom I have loved ſo dear; have I told you my mind, and have I not as faithful a Breaſt to conceal yours? he would have ſaid more, but unwilling to give him cauſe to ſuſpect infidelity in me; ſince he was to be the greateſt inſtrument of my happineſs, it is, ſaid I———who, ſaid he, is ſhe without a name? not ſo, replyed I, ſhe hath a name that I Adore above all names, but I muſt crave your pardon firſt, before I utter it: Except *Iris*, ſaid he, I would

would give thee the Empire of the whole World, were it in my power, rather than caſt thee from my Breaſt; name but another: It is then, ſaid I, the Beauteous *Clora*, that the unhappy *Boniface* loves, if you can forgive me that Crime. I doe not forgive onely but ſhall always, replyed he, be your ſervant in this point, and deſire no other reward but your help in my misfortune: that ſhall never be wanting, ſaid I, as long as you mediate with your Fair Siſter for me, which I hope you will vouchſafe, ſince by your own paſſion you may gueſs the vehemency of mine. Farewel, dear Friend, I hope at my return to bring you more comfort then can be expected from the ſhortneſs of the time for my diligence ſhall never be wanting to my deareſt *Florus*; Farewel, I left the ſad *Florus* without giving him time, to return anſwer, and ſo went to act what I could in his behalf. But ſince mornings are not fit hours to viſit Ladies, I ſtayed till the afternoon, and then I came ſo ſoon after dinner, that I found the fair *Iris* alone in her Chamber; after I had rendred an officious Complement, which ſhe returned in great civility:

Madam, ſaid I, unto her, I am very ſorry I come upon ſo bad news, yet it is my duty to acquaint you, that the Generous *Florus* is a priſoner: *Florus* a priſoner, (replied *Iris* infinitely aſtoniſhed) Hath his Enemy ſurpriſed him at *Amiens*? No Madam, ſaid I, he is in the City, and is taken by one of my acquaintance, and it is in your power to releaſe him. I cannot deny, ſaid ſhe, but the misfortune of him you name doth exceedingly trouble me, for beſides, he is more beautiful then any that ever I ſaw, he is kinſman to *Iſara*, whom I love very well; it muſt therefore be either a Crime or an impoſſibility, if I will not help him: as for things onely difficult, I will attempt them all to ſave the life of an unfortunate man, that is a very ſtranger unto me, much ſooner for a Friend whom I infinitely eſteem.

Be pleaſed, Madam, to reſolve then, ſaid I unto her, you will ſet him at liberty: I will ſaid ſhe; but will you be pleaſed alſo to forgive me, when I tell you by what means he is a priſoner, and by what means he muſt be ſet free? The faireſt *Iris* was ſo ſurpriſed at this diſcourſe, that ſhe looked upon me and could not anſwer,

and

and began to ſuſpect the truth. Nevertheleſs, for her promiſe ſake, ſhe ſaid, ſhe would; then did I make her acquainted with all the Eloquence I could of his misfortune, that without her pitty he was a priſoner for ever; ſometimes praiſing his Anceſtors, ſometimes his Valour, ſometime his Beauty, that I gained ſo much of her good will, that ſhe bid me tell him he was at liberty, and bluſhed, not able to ſpeak more.

Well, Madam, ſaid I, and kiſt her hand, you have not ſet him at liberty onely, but made me the happieſt Man in the World, her modeſty tied her Tongue, and forced her to make ſigns with her hand, that I ſhould leave her. I willingly obeyed, and the good news ſo winged my ſpeed, that I ſoon found out the generous *Florus*, who had been no leſs diligent in my behalf, in as much as he was always in his Siſters company, and ſhe loved him moſt dearly. He thanked me Ten thouſand times, and I thanked him as many; but alas his ſucceſs proved better then mine, for in two moneths ſpace he enjoyed the Beauteous *Iris*. But *Dimnas*, my cruel Rival deſtroyed my Peace,

he

he was a Lord of *France*, of a haughty Spirit, of twice my Age; yet although not ſo much in favor with the Beauteous *Clora*, he thought nevertheleſs his Birth ſo far beyond mine, would prevail beyond my tender Addreſſes, or her Brothers Mediation.

One day coming from the fair *Clora*, *Dimnas* met me, and ſpeaking very coldly unto me, I have ſought you ſeveral days, ſaid he, but never could meet you, unleſs with the Lord *Florus*, or his Siſter, in whoſe preſence you are continually. Had I known your intentions, ſaid I, with the ſame coldneſs, but very civilly, I ſhould have come to you to know your pleaſure; Perhaps if you had known it, ſaid *Dimnas*, you would have been ſo far from coming to me, that you would not have come to the Lady *Clora*. Since I do not uſe, ſaid I, to ſhun either my friends or enemies, I know no reaſon you ſhould ſpeak to me in this manner. I know leſs reaſon, ſaid he, you have to carry your ſelf ſo of late. Since I ever followed the Rules of Reaſon, anſwered I, I do not know how I have misbehaved my ſelf. When I firſt knew you, ſaid he, it was

not

not easie to see that your frequent visits of the Princes would afterwards prejudice me, or that a Man of your quality should be so bold, as to oppose such a one as my self. My quality (said I, much incensed) is indeed unknown to me, but I had rather be received by the Lady *Clora* for my own Vertue, then for my quality onely, though it were higher then yours. You may do well, said he, to think of your own, and let mine alone; therefore, let me see you no more with the Lady *Clora*. If I do —— How Sir, said I, and interrupted him, Force me not to lay aside the respects I should otherwise pay to your quality; for men of carriage cannot brook to be threatned. You shall suffer my threats, replied he, and the effects, if you correct not your self; provided our Swords be equal, said I fiercely, the inequality of our condition shall not hinder you from preventing me: Do me the honor therefore, to tell me with your Sword in your haud, whether it be Nature or Fortune that puts a difference betwixt us; you shall know presently, said he, and drawing his Sword, bid me defend my self. Animated therefore by my love,

by

by my jealouſies, and by his angry language, did fight with ſuch fury, that *Dimnas* as gallant as he was, had a hard task to reſiſt. I found my advantage, and preſſed ſo hard upon him, that I killed him in the place; which forced me in the greateſt diſpair, to take my Horſe and flee for my life in diſguiſe, without taking leave ſo much as of the Lady, I ſo dearly loved. How did I wiſh for Ten thouſand Rivals, rather then leave her; how did I curſe my ſelf, that I ſuffered not my adverſary to ſheath his Sword in my Breſt, that I might have died in her ſervice.

Thus I lived three years in the greateſt miſery that man could ſuffer, till the Wars in *Burgundy* began; then I reſolved to go unknown and regain my credit with the King, and obtain his pardon, or die under the Banner of the Duke that had given me life; but he had no ſooner ſetled the affairs in *Burgundy*, but he was convicted of High Treaſon, and afterwards beheaded in the Baſtil; then was all my hopes of pardon loſt with him, whom before the King loved, as never Man loved.

This

This made me retire hither, and with what my Fortune haſt bleſt me, ſpend the remainder of my days in ſorrow.

Thus well ſatisfied with the *Hiſtory* of his Fortunes, my Maſter thanked him for the pains he had taken in relating them, and the night growing late took his leave.

CAP. XV.

He goes on with his Maſter from Rouen *to S.* Claire; *thence paſsing by* Mont-Martyr, *he comes to* Paris. *Two pleaſant Stories of S.* Dennis *and his Church.*

WE took our farewel the next day of *Rouen*, and paſſing through many * *Dubargs*, we came at laſt to S. *Claire*; here were no rarities to entertain my fancy as at *Rouen*, which gives me leiſure, to tell what befel me that night in the Inn. It was ſo taken up with Paſſengers, that I could not lie any where near my Maſter, but

* *Villages.*

but was forced to lie in the remoteſt part of the Houſe, over an old Ware-houſe, in a Bed provided for the Carriers, when they came that way. This gave me opportunity to view the Secreſies of every Packet in the dead time of the night. But I found onely about three Piſtols in Money, the reſt was ſuch ſtuff that I had no appetite for, and ſo I returned to Bed. I was no ſooner laid, but I could hear one come after me, which cauſed me to ſuſpect I had been perceived. Therefore I locked my door, and laid my Sword by me with this reſolution, rather to kill them that dogged me, and ſhift for my eſcape in the morning, then to be ſubject to the rigor of the Law in a ſtrange place. But it fell out much better then my expectation; for ſtrait one knocked at my door, and in a Womaniſh voice cryed. *My dear, my dear open the door.* I was indeed much ſuppriſed at this accident, but knowing by the voice it was a Woman that ſpoke, and deſirous to ſee the end of this adventure, I roſe, and opening the door, I returned to my Bed, ſhe followed me as eagerly, being in her Smock, and laying her ſelf down by me. I have waited, ſaid ſhe, this hour

for

for you ever ſince I ſaw you firſt amongſt your Packets, how came you in ſo late late to night. By this time I eaſily perceived the Poor Wench had miſtaken me for the Carrier that uſed to lie there, and with whom ſhe had formerly uſed this familiarity; and thereupon making ſome excuſe, that my Horſes were faln lame, and the like, I went about that I had never done before. How well I anſwered her expectation, ſhe onely knows, yet before five a Clock in the Morning, that ſhe went away for fear of being diſcovered by her Maſter, ſhe ſeemed to be as well ſatisfied with her new Bed-fellow, as I was pleaſed with the miſtake.

Not long after my Maſter roſe, but not ſo well ſatisfied with his lodging I ſuppoſe, as I was with mine, and we paſſed on in our journey to *Paris* through *Pontoiſe*, which is the laſt Town of *Normandy* that way; thence we paſſed by *Mont-Martyr* not far diſtant from *Paris*: Here it is reported, That in the time that the Heathens inhabited *Gaule*, many of the faithful ſuffered Martyrdom: Of theſe S. *Dennis* is cheif, being the titular Saint of *France*. For, ſay they, after he was beheaded,

headed, he made no more to do, but ſnatched up his head Sir, and ran with it down the Hill, in his Arms, as faſt as his Legs could carry him; till at the end of half a mile from the place of his execution, he ſate and reſted himſelf, then roſe again, and continued the ſame Eight times more, till he came to the place where they have now erected a Church to his memory; nay, according to that of *Minutius Fœlix*, *Majoribus noſtris tam facilis in mendaciis fides fuit, ut temere crediderint illa monſtroſa miracula: Et quicquid fame licet fingere illis erat libenter audire.* The Inhabitants are ſo bewitched into a belief of this miracle, that at every reſting place they have built a Stone-Croſs and worſhip there.

Now becauſe it will not be altogether unpleaſant to relate another ſtory concerning S. *Dennis*'s Church, I ſhall repeat one, which I finde no where better ſet forth then where it is, in theſe words.

A pleaſant Story of S. Dennis *Church, in* Mont-Martyr, *within a Mile of* Paris.

Dagobert, afterwards King of *France*, during the life of *Clotarre* the Second, his Father, had cruelly ſlain *Sadraſagille* his Governor; and to avoid the fury of his Father, much incenſed with that action, he was compelled to wander up and down *France*, hungry and thirſty; and as he went, and he went (for this Tale ſays the Author, ſhould be told in the ſame ſtile that Wenches tell theirs by the Fires ſide) till he came to the Sepulcher of S. *Dennis*, where he laid himſelf down and ſlept; and then there appeared unto him, a fine old Man with a Grey Beard, and a Staff in his Hand; and he told him, That his Father was dead; and that he ſhould be King; and he prayed him of all loves, That when he came to be King, he would build a Church there, to the honor of S. *Dennis*. He had an hard heart, that could deny ſo ſweet an old Man ſo little a courteſie for ſo good news; and I trow, he was more kind then ſo. And

ſo when the Church was built, the Biſhop was ſent for in all haſt to bleſs it: But it chanced the Night before the Day the Biſhop was to bleſs it, there came to Town an ugly Leaper, and the foul eſt that ever was ſeen; and this Leaper would needs lie in the Church: And when he was there, about Twelve a Clock in the Night our Saviour came to the Church in Garments as White as driven Snow; there came with him the Apoſtles, the Angels, and the Martyrs, and ſweeteſt Muſick that ever was heard in the World. Then Chriſt bleſſed the Church, and ſaid unto the Leaper, that he ſhould tell the Biſhop, That the Church was already bleſſed; and for a token of it, he gave the Leaper his health; who preſently became as fine a ſweet Youth, as one ſhould ſee in a Summers day. *Auditam admiſſe riſum teneatis.* You may laugh, if you pleaſe, but I will aſſure you this is the Story: Neither is it a jot the leſs Authentical, becauſe of the ſtile. Such ridiculous ſtuff did the Monks and Friers of thoſe times, invent to pleaſe and blind the people.

But

But enough of this, *Ne quid nimis*, I ſhall return to my Maſter, who at our arrival at *Paris*, being a Gentleman, would not lie in the Common Inns, but took a Lodging in a Private Citizens Houſe.

Hitherto Fortune *crown'd me with ſucceſs,*
And every Action had it, more or leſs.
Perhaps th'are childiſh though, and theſe to hear,
Is Meat for ſuch, and no Judicous Ear.
If Childiſh, I was then a Child you know;
And Vices *muſt as well as* Vertues *grow.*
Pardon me, Courteous Reader, for what's paſt,
That was the top, the bottom comes at laſt.
Thus skill'd in Arts, Apprentices do go
To Cities, their themſelves and Crafts to ſhow.
And I that formerly, to act have been afraid,
Am come to Paris *now, to drive full Trade.*

CHAP. XVI.

He Cheats a young Gallant with whom he Liveth, of One hundred Crowns, and a Country Maid of her Virginity.

WE had not continued in our Lodging above a week, when the good old man of the House fell sick of a Feaver, and being then in his Climacterical year, yielded up his last breath. The Widow then left with Children grown to Mans Estate, who like Birds as soon as feathered leave the Nest, forgetting the Respects which they owe to those that gave them Life, found it too hard a matter to rule or govern them longer; for the Son commonly thinks himself too wise to be ruled by a Womans Orders, and scorns to submit unto a Sex which seems to be born to live in subjection. This made *Laris*, for so was her eldest Son's name, take little care for any thing but gratifying his sensual pleasures, for having carried away the Means and Estate from the rest, he imployed his time one-

ly

ly in Hunting, Gaming and Viſiting his Neighbors, and ſuch like exerciſes being the uſual recreations of head-ſtrong Gallants. 'Tis no wonder then if this looſe kind of life opened a door to greater debauchery; for by theſe courſes of life the fire that lies hid in youthful Blood is ſoon kindled. 'Twas his fortune one day as he Hunted, to caſt his Eyes upon a a Farmers Daughter whoſe Beauty was above a Countrey-comlineſs, and whoſe perſon had nothing clowniſh but her Apparel; thus Nature who breeds the faireſt Pearls in the craggieſt Rocks, takes delight ſometimes, to ſhew, that ſhe is no leſs induſtrious in the Countrey then in the Cities; in a word, Beauty is there for the moſt part moſt chaſte, and Chaſtity more fair.

The young Gentleman inthralled with her Love (whoſe name was *Villa*) thought by reaſon of his great Riches, that he ſhould eaſily obtain his deſire: and as the French Blood is very active in this caſe, he let ſlip no opportunity to effect it; but he found himſelf far wide in his account; for beſides that by a natural Modeſty, ſhe avoided all the importuni-

ties of this Complimenter: ſhe was alſo withheld by another tye, being long before engaged to a young man of her own quality, whom ſhe loved dearly as her life. This made her more circumſpect and wary, and in no wiſe to correſpond to the fooleries of *Laris*, for ſeeing him come, ſhe would turn another way or imploy her ſelf about ſome huſwifery, in concluſion, ſhe avoided this Youth in ſuch manner, that all the ſubtilties which he invented to entrap her, were as ſo many vented Mines without effects. This brought his paſſion to that height that it plainly appeared in his countenance, and could lie hid no longer, for according to that of *Apulleius*, theſe be the ſigns of Love, Melancholly, *Pallor deformis*, *Marcentes oculi*, *quies turbida*, *& ſpiritus cruciatus tarditate vehementior*, or as *Ovid* ſpeaks concerning *Canace*.

Fugerat ore calor, macies que obduxerat artus,
Sumebant minimos ora coacta cibos.
Nec ſomni faciles, & non erat annua nobis:
Et gemitum nullo preſſa dolore dabam.

So

So that I ſoon perceived (for by reaſon of my *debonaire* humour, I was often in his company) that his jovial diſpoſition was now ſmothered with a ſudden melancholly, and that he bent to ſolitarineſs now more then ever he did before to good company: I reſolved therefore to ſearch out the cauſe of it, telling him that though I were a ſtranger, and one that he knew not ſo well as his Brothers, yet I had a Breaſt as faithful as theirs, and a courage that could never brook an injury done to my friend. My Brothers, ſaid he, I know are not well wiſhers to my life that inherit the whole Eſtate; nay I would rather truſt it in the hands of a ſtranger then theirs: then, replyed I, you ſhall, if you pleaſe, find by the effects, that I am no ſtranger but your friend to the laſt, impart onely to me the reaſon of your ſudden change.

At theſe words the credulous Youth could no longer ſmother his Paſſion, but in much ſorrow told me all that I have been hitherto relating; adding, that if I could help him, it was not that (putting a handful of Money into my hand) but a greater recompence ſhould be made to my fidelity. I had now hit the mark

I aimed at, and was ready to doe any thing one theſe conditions.

Firſt, therefore I ſought to know the name of him ſhe loved, as the key to my deſigne, and where he lived, which with much difficulty at laſt I gained, on this wiſe.

I diſguiſed my ſelf in poor Habit, coloured my Face Tawny, and my Voice did naturally concur; for being educated at *Callais* in *Picardy*, I had not yet poliſht the roughneſs of my clowniſh French with the City Dialect; that I was more like a true Ægyptian then a natural French man. Then went I to the Farmers houſe deſiring ſome Bread, and that I would tell them their Fortunes for it, pretending great skill in Phiſiognomy, and Chiromancy: the young Maids, as it is common in ſuch caſes, deſirous to be informed of their Sweethearts, came flocking to the door, but I ſaw not the Daughter amongſt them: well, ſaid I, you are not all come, there is one behind ſtill, pray tell her ſhe ſhall have as good fortune as the reſt if ſhe pleaſe to hear it: nevertheleſs I fell to my Art, ſome I told this, ſome that, and pleaſed them ſo well, that

at

at last they called her out. *Qualiacunque voles, Judæus somnia vendit, spondet amatorem tenerum, &c.* Well, said she, and how many Sweethearts shall I have? their's, said I, pointing to the rest are to come, but you have one already, nay two; then calling her aside, tell me, said I, the name of the first, and that you may believe that I have skill in my Profession, I shall tell you the name of the other, and which you shall certainly have. This so tickled up her fancy, that immediately she confessed his name was *Jacques Moulier*, then I pulled out my Table Book, and making some Figures therein: well, said I, it falls out thus; the first Letter of another that loves you, is *L.* which coming between *I.* and *M.* unfortunately shall lose his aime, two having more prevalence then one, and so you shall certainly enjoy the first. Now, *I*, the first Letter of his name being the third Vowel of the Six, is to be multiplied thrice, the result is Nine, and it follows, you shall enjoy your Love on Saturday Seven-night, which is the Ninth day from this being Wednesday.

By these Quirps I induced her to believe all was true; nay, said I, *Venus* and

Ameriger

Ameriger, the great Gods of Love being now in conjunction, ſignifie, this ſhall be brought to paſs by a Letter and a Croſs. The Maid was again overjoyed, the time of her Marriage grew ſo near, and I had ſo deſcribed the perſon of *Laris*, that was to be deceived of all his hopes to her, that I gave her no cauſe to ſuſpect the leaſt deceit, ſhe rewarded me as I had pleaſed her, with more Bread and Cheeſe then a Stomach well an hungred could have eaten, yet I thanked her for it, and ſo returned to my friend. But not acquainting *Laris* with what had paſſed, well, ſaid I, what would you give me, if in a weeks time I bring you into the Arms of your beloved, without being tied to the bands of Wedlock; I would give more then I am worth, ſaid this deſperate Lover, if I had it, to enjoy her: well, ſaid I again, a hundred Crowns ſhall ſuffice for my Reward, and you ſhall, providing onely you will furniſh me with a Prieſts Habit, and your ſelf with a Peaſants; that I can eaſily doe, replyed he, and thereupon ſent his Lacquey to an old Fryar of his acquaintance; and afterwards to a Tenant of his not far diſtant. This done, you muſt be ready,

ſaid

ſaid I, on Saturday Seven-night in the Evening at Five of the Clock, to go to the Fifth Croſs on Saint *Dennis*-Hill in thoſe Cloaths, with a patch on your face, and an old Periwig on your Head, there you ſhall meet her, but counterfeit your voice as much as you can, and ſay what you imagine the other would ſay in your caſe, for by a Letter I ſhall bring it to paſs, that ſhe ſhall meet you there inſtead of her Lover *Moulier*, at five of the clock in the evening; thence you ſhall conduct her to the *Flower de Luce* Inn on that Rode, where, as by your appointment I ſhall come ſoon after in my Prieſts Habit and marry you; you may pretend this Secreſie, is leaſt you ſhould be known by your friends and the like, ſo ſhall you enjoy her that night, and if you pleaſe, diſcover your ſelf next morning as her lawful Husband, or go ſatisfied in your deſires: for the probability of my propoſitions he gave me fifty Crowns, with promiſe of fifty more after I ſhould have brought the matter to paſs. So I returned to my Maſter till next days leiſure gave me time to write and ſend her this Letter.

My

My dear *Villa*,

I Have reſolved at length in anſwer to all thy tender love, to marry thee next Saturday Seven-night, at the Flower du Luce *Inn, near S.* Dennis *Church: Meet me therefore at five in the Evening at the Fifth Croſs, and I ſhall conduct thee thither, where I have appointed a Prieſt to meet us. I ſhall come in diſguiſe it is true, but you ſhall know me by a Patch on my Face, and a ſhort Perewig; for I dare not yet diſcover my intentions to any, for fear of my Rival* Laris, *accept the faithful* Villa, *from whom death ſhall never part.*

Her true Lover

F. Moulier.

She received and read this Letter, and whether induced by what I had told her of the time, and the place, in form of a Gipſie, or out of a deſire to be married and fruſtrate *Laris* intentions, to believe it was true. She met at the time and place appointed, where I married her, and my confederate enjoyed her. This allayed his

his Paſſion, for as the deſire had cauſed it, ſo the enjoyment of the thing diſperſed all appearance of *Erotique Melancholly* in him.

Thus for a hundred Crowns I ſold the Maid,
By my fallacious ſtratagem betray'd,
Unto the arms of him ſhe hates. I fear
That he hath bought repentance too, too dear;
But I thrive. Bought wit's beſt, and there-
fore it's fit,
When the Crows gape, the Fox ſhould get
the bit.

CHAP. XVII.

What hapned the next Morning.]

Tenebris audacia creſcit, ſays the Poet, and I know the love-ſick youth, concealed in the ſhades of Night, made good uſe of his time, to the ſatisfaction of his beloved, being well pleaſed with the ſweet potion I had procured for his Paſſion. For ſcarce had the Sun left *Thetis* Breſt, and bluſhed above the Horiſon, when theſe two lovers parted likewiſe

wiſe ſhe to her Fathers houſe, without diſcovering the deceit for *Cæcus Amor*; he to his Mothers, as *debonaire* as ever, for *Amoris vulnus eadem quæ facit ſanat*, according to the Epigram,

Τηλεφός εἰμι, χάρη. σὺ δέ γίνεο πρὸς Ἀχιλλεύς.
Κάλλει σῷ παῦσον τὸ πρὶν, ὡς ἔβαλες.

I, ſweet am Telephus, *thou* Achilles *be.*
And let thy Beauty cure that wounded me.

He related me the whole Paſſages, and Succeſs of the foregoing Night, wherewith he ſeemed ſo well pleaſed, That he gave me the other Fifty Crowns; and to compleat our mirth, I rehearſed what befel me in the Inn, when I was miſtaken for the Carrier. Thus we paſſed the beſt part of the Morning till my Maſter roſe, who according to his cuſtom had ſcarce walked in the Garden an hour, but Dinner was ready. After which, they walked out in the Garden, My Maſter, the Widow, her Son, *Laris* and her two Daughters, to the Fountain in the midſt of the Garden; which was the moſt pleaſantly planted that ever I ſaw any belonging to a private houſe. The Fountain was on this

this wiſe. A great Braſen-Snake circled round, the Body of a fair Orange-Tree, which was then onerated with its Golden Fruit, which the Rays of the Sun made to appear moſt glorious, diſperſed its Cryſtal Waters through Seven Heads (for ſo many Children had ſhe had, and her Husband had there erected ſo many Heads) three yards diſtance from every ſide of the Tree, round the which was a Marble Seat curiouſly cut into ſeveral Fruits and Flowers, where it was moſt pleaſant either to ſleep by the noiſe of the Falling Waters, or ſit in the hotteſt day of Summer, ſecure from the ſcortching Rays. Here they entertained my Maſter with ſeveral pleaſant Diſcourſes; for I ſtaid Dinner with the Servants which were two Women; and as he was pleaſed to tell me afterwards (for ſuch things *Decies repetita placebunt*) the Widow began thus.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVIII.

The Pleaſant Hiſtory of a Knight of Pavia.

IN the time of *Frederick* the Firſt (as all affirm) the Chriſtians to recover the *Holy Land*, made an Univerſal Invaſion over the Sea; which *Saladine*, then *Sultan* of *Babylon*, a Man as vertuous as Politick hearing, reſolved to go in perſon, and ſee what the Chriſtian Princes did; and thereupon diſguiſes himſelf in Merchants habits with two of his greateſt Lords: And having put his buſineſs in order in *Egypt*, pretends he will go a Pilgrimage.

Thus viewed he many Chriſtian Provinces, till riding at laſt by *Lombardy*, to go over the Mountains, it came to paſs, That going from *Millan* to *Pavia*, and already belated, he met with a Gentleman of *Pavia*, who was then returning with his Men, his Hawks, and his Dogs, to a Houſe of his by the River *Teſin*. *Saladine* therefore asks one of Mr. *Thorels* men (for ſo was the Gentlemans name) how far they had to *Pavia*, and whether they could arrive

arrive there that night time enough to get in. Mr. *Thorel* did not ſtay to let his Men make anſwer, but ſeeing they were ſtrangers, anſwered himſelf, My Lord, you cannot arrive time enough to get in. Then ſaid *Saladine*, tell us, if you pleaſe, becauſe we are ſtrangers, where we may lodge. That will I do with all my heart, ſaid Mr. *Thorel*, I was juſt now ſending one of my Men not far from *Pavia*, about ſome buſineſs; and he ſhall go with you, and conduct you to a place where you may be very well lodged. Then whiſpering to one of his men, he gave him charge to carry them a farther way about to his Houſe.

This done Mr. *Thorel* takes a nearer way home, before them, and furniſhing a Table ready in a Summer-Houſe, he ſtood expecting them at the Window. His man that had led the ſtrangers over many pleaſant Paths, to give his Maſter time enough, did now approach; and Mr. *Thorel* no ſooner perceived them, but he came down Stairs, and ſmiling ſaid, Gentlemen you are very welcome. *Saladine* then ſaluted him in theſe words. Sir, If men may complain of thoſe that are civil, we may com-

plain of you, that force us without any merit of ours to receive ſo great a courteſie from you. This courteſie you receive from me, ſaid Mr. *Thorel*, is not comparable to thoſe ſuch perſons merit, as your faces promiſe you to be; but out of *Pavia* you could not be well lodged, and therefore I deſire you would not take it ill, if you are ſtopt a little in your way for your eaſe; and ſaying thus, All his men came to attend them, and took care of their Horſes.

Then Mr. *Thorel* brought theſe three ſtrangers to the Room he had prepared for them; where with cool Wines, and pleaſant Diſcourſe, he entertained them till Supper. And thoſe that were with him could ſpeak Latin, which was the cauſe they underſtood one another: So that it ſeemed to theſe ſtrangers, that this Knight was the moſt courteous and accompliſhed Gentleman they had ever ſeen.

It ſeemed likewiſe to Mr. *Thorel*, that his gueſts were great men, and that they merited more then at firſt ſight, he thought. So that he was ſorry in himſelf, that he could not help them that night to better company that might entertain

them

them better; but resolved to recompence it the next day at Dinner. Therefore he sent one of his men to his wife at *Pavia*, to prepare against the next day; and afterwards led them into his Garden, where he desired to know who they were; to whom *Saladine* answered, They were *Cyprian* Merchants which came from *Cyprus*.

Thus from one Discourse to another, they passed the time till Supper, where they were so entertained, that it was much beyond their expectation, if it had been a set Banquet. When the Cloath was taken away, Mr. *Thorel* imagining they might be weary, conducted them to a large Bed-Chamber, and a little after took his leave.

His Servant that he sent to *Pavia*, had done his message to his Wife, who sent for many of her Friends, and of Mr. *Thorels* Servants, and prepared all that was necessary for a great Feast according to her Husbands commands.

Next day the Gentlemen rose, and Mr. *Thorel* taking his Hawks with him, contented his guests wonderfully with that pleasant pastime. But said *Saladine*, who

will inform us, which is the beſt Inn in *Pavia*. It ſhall be I, ſaid Mr. *Thorel*, that will inform you, for I am going thither, as well as you.

Thus they paſſed on till about nine of the Clock they arrived at *Pavia*, and thinking they were going to the beſt Inn, they came to Mr. *Thorels* Houſe, where about Fifty of the cheifeſt of the City were ready to receive them. At this ſight, *Saladine*, and his Companions, much amazed. This is not that, ſaid they, that we deſired of you, therefore pray leave us in our way; to which, Mr. *Thorel* anſwered, *My Lords, for what is paſt, I am more indebted to Fortune then to you, in as much as you had need of diverting there: But for this morning I have prepared, and likewiſe all theſe Gentlemen that are about you; therefore if it ſeems to you, to be civil to refuſe to dine with them, you may.* *Saladine* and his company overcome with his perſwaſions alighted, and received by all the Gentlemen, were brought into a Chamber richly furniſhed for them; then having pulled off their riding Cloaths, and being a little refreſhed, they were conducted into the Hall, where all things were triumphantly

in

in order; here they ſate down to dinner, where they were ſo magnificently ſerved with ſuch varieties of meats, and ſuch good Order, that the Emperour himſelf had he been there, could not have been better entertained; and although *Saladine* and his companions were great Lords, and uſed to ſee great Feaſts; nevertheleſs they much wondred at this, conſidering the quality of the Knight, that they knew to be a Citizen and not a Prince.

When they had ſate a little after dinner, the Gentlemen of *Pavia*, according to Mr. *Thorel's* deſire went out, and he remained with the three ſtrangers onely. Then, that their might be nothing that he loved but they ſhould ſee, he ſent for his Wife, which was a Woman very fair and beautiful, richly cloathed, and accompanied with her two little Boys that appeared like Angels on each ſide of her; when they ſaw her they ſaluted her with great reſpect, and made her ſit between them, and made much alſo of her fair Children; then after a little diſcourſe had paſt between them, ſhe asked from whence they came and whither they went: to which they anſwered the ſame they

had done to Mr. *Thorel*: then ſaid the Lady ſmiling, I perceive my womaniſh advice will prove to the purpoſe, which I deſire you as an eſpecial favour you will not deny, nor ſcorn the little Preſent I ſhall cauſe to be brought, but that you will accept of it, conſidering that Women according to their ſmall abilities give little Gifts; and that you will look more on the will of the perſon that offers it, then the quality of the gift; then ſhe preſented to each two Gowns, one lined with Silk and the other with Velvet, not in that faſhion that Citizens and Merchants ware them, but as Lords, three Coats likewiſe of Taffita, and fine Linnen, ſaying, take if you p'eaſe theſe Robes in which faſhion I have this day clothed my Husband, and for the other things, though they are of ſmall value, yet they may doe you ſome good, ſince you are farre from your Wives, and have farre to goe: the Gentlemen more ſurprized at this then all that had paſſed, perceived that Mr. *Thorel* would not leave undone the leaſt courteſie, and doubted, ſeeing the richneſs of the Preſents, leſt Mr. *Thorel* had diſcovered who they were. Nevertheleſs

theleſs, ſaid one to the Lady, Theſe are. Madam, very great Preſents, and which ought not to be lightly taken, if we were not conſtrained by your deſires that cannot be ſaid nay: this done, Mr. *Thorel* came again into the Chamber, and his wife took her leave; then asked he the ſtrangers if they were pleaſed to take Horſe and ſee the City, which they willingly conſented to, and according to Mr. *Thorels* intreaties that had ſo much obliged them, they afterwards returned with him to his Houſe, and ſtayed there all that night; the next morning they roſe to goe on their voyage, and deſiring their Horſes might be brought, they were preſented with three freſh and tall Geldings, inſtead of theirs that were weary, and likewiſe freſh Horſes for their men, which *Saladine* ſeeing, turned to his companions, and ſaid, I proteſt that there never was a man more courteous and generous then this, and if the Chriſtian Kings were as much Kings in their particular, as this is a Knight, the Sultan of *Babylon* muſt not expect to take one of them, much leſs all theſe that are preparing againſt him; and ſeeing he could not well refuſe them,

he thanked Mr. *Thorel* and mounted; Mr. *Thorel* with ſeveral of his friends accompanied them a great way out of the City, and though it grieved *Saladine* very much to part with Mr. *Thorel*, nevetheleſs being conſtrained by his affairs, he deſired him to return.

Mr. *Thorel* then troubled likewiſe to leave them, ſaid, Gentlemen, ſeeing it pleaſes you, I will, and deſire to know no more of you then you pleaſe, yet whoſoever you are, I ſhall never beleeve you to be onely Merchants, and I commend you to God. *Saladine* having already taken his leave of thoſe that were come with *Mr. Thorel*, ſaid ſmiling to him, Sir, it may come to paſs hereafter, that we may ſhow you of our Merchandize to your ſatisfaction; Farewell.

Thus departed *Saladine* and his companions, and having travelled over ſeveral Provinces, they at length returned to *Alexandria*, and gave the People warning to prepare in their defence. Great preparations were made on both ſides, and now the time was come, that the Chriſtians ſhould make their invaſion, and amongſt the reſt, Mr. *Thorel* being a moſt valiant man,

man, notwithſtanding the Tears and Prayers of his Wife, reſolved to goe, and having prepared all his things; he ſaid to his wife whom he dearly loved; My Friend, I goe as you ſee, as well for my Honour, as the Salvation of my Soul: I leave thee our Eſtate and our Honour, and becauſe I am not certain of my return for many accidents that may happen in the way that I am going, I deſire one favour of thee, that whatſoever becomes of me, if thou haſt not certain news of my life, thou wilt ſtay a year, a month, and a day without Marrying, from this day that I depart; the Lady weeping, anſwered; I know not how to bear the affliction you leave me in by going from me; but if my life be ſtronger then it, and any accident befall thee, whether thou live or dye, I ſhall certainly remain Mr. *Thorel*'s wife. I am very certain replyed he, as for thy part it will be as you ſay, but thou art a fair young woman, and of great birth, and thy Virtue is known by all; theſe things will cauſe ſeveral great perſons if they had the leaſt news of my death, to ask thee of thy Friends and Brothers againſt thy will, and this is the reaſon that makes me

me limit this time and no longer; The Lady anſwered, I will doe what I can to prevent this, and when I am at laſt conſtrained to doe otherwiſe, be aſſured I will obey you in this you command me, then weeping and taking the Ring off her Finger; if it happen, ſaid ſhe, I die before I ſee you again, remember me when you ſee it: thus taking leave of his Relations, Mr. *Thorel* went on his voyage, and in few days joyned with the Chriſtian Army; but either by the Induſtry or Fortune of *Saladine*, the ſlaughter of the Chriſtians was ſo great, that few eſcaped death who were not taken priſoners; amongſt the reſt was Mr. *Thorel* carried priſoner to *Alexandria*, there unknown and afraid to be known, he pretended skill in Hawks, which indeed he took great delight in, and was at length ſent for by the Sultan out of priſon, and made his Faulconer, but paſſing onely under the name of the Chriſtian, he was unknown to him.

Mr. *Thorel*, who could never put *Pavia* out of his mind, had ſeveral ways tried to eſcape, but none ſucceeded. One day the Sultan talking with him concerning his Hawks, Mr. *Thorel* chanced to ſmile, making

making a certain action with his Mouth, that *Saladine* when he was at his Houſe in *Pavia*, had particularly taken notice of, this made him call Mr. *Thorel* to mind, and looking earneſtly on him, he imagined it was he, and ſaid, tell me Chriſtian of what Countrey art thou? I am of *Ponat* replyed he, a *Lombard* of a City called *Pavia*, a poor man and of low condition. *Saladine* half aſſured of what he doubted, cauſed forthwith all his Robes to be hung in a Chamber, and bringing Mr. *Thorel* in, Tell me Chriſtian, ſaid he, if amongſt theſe Robes there be any that ever thou ſaweſt. Mr. *Thorel* lookt on them all, and ſaw thoſe his Wife had given to the *Cyprian* Merchant, yet could not believe they were the ſame. Nevertheleſs he anſwered, Sir, I know not one of them, but 'tis true, theſe two are like two Robes which heretofore I gave to a *Cyprian* Merchant that came to my Houſe; then *Saladine* could no longer withold himſelf, but embracing him, ſaid, You are Mr. *Thorel*, and I am one of the three Merchants to whom your Wife gave theſe Robes, and now is the time come that you ſhall know my Merchandiſe, as I told

you

you, when I departed from you. Mr. *Thorel* was glad and aſhamed together, to have had ſuch a gueſt, and to have entertained him no better. Then *Saladine* cloathed him in rich apparel, and brought him in the preſence of the greateſt Lords; and after he had ſpoken many things in his praiſe, and of his valour, he commanded he ſhould be honored as himſelf, by all thoſe that deſired his favor, as every one did afterwards: But above all, the two Lords that were in *Saladines* company at Mr. *Thorel's* houſe.

Thus the worthy Knight had lived happily the remainder of his days in the Sultans Court; but when he remembred *Pavia*, and his dear Wife, he fell into ſuch a Melancholly, that he loſt his appetite, and taking his Bed, reſolved to die. *Saladine* that loved him extreamly, no ſooner heard of this, but he viſited him, and knowing at length the cauſe of his Melancholly, he blamed him, that he had not acquainted him with it ſooner, and deſired him to be of good comfort, aſſuring him, That if he would he ſhould be in *Pavia* within the time appointed, and acquainted him with the manner.

Mr.

Mr. *Thorel* gave credit to the words of the Sultan, having heard it was a thing poſſible to be done, and that had been done, and often ſollicited him to it. *Saladine* then commanded a *Negromancer* of his, whoſe Science he had already experienced, that he ſhould find a way whereby Mr. *Thorel* might be carried to *Pavia* in one night on a Bed. The *Negromancer* anſwered it ſhould be done, but it would be expedient to cauſe him to ſleep. When *Saladine* therefore had given him order concerning this matter, he returned to Mr. *Thorel*, and finding him altogether diſpoſed to go to *Pavia*, if it were poſſible, or elſe to die. He ſaid, Mr. *Thorel* if you love your Wife affectionately, and you doubt ſhe is married to another, God knows whether I can help you to ſuch another; for of all the Women that ever I ſaw, it is ſhe whom Vertue hath rendred moſt worthy of Praiſe and Love.

It would have been a thing very agreeable, ſince Fortune hath brought you hither, that the time we have to live, we ſhould paſs together in this Kingdom that I hold. But if I cannot enjoy your company, becauſe it comes in your mind to

go

go to *Pavia*, in the appointed time, or to die, How unhappy am I, that I cannot ſend you home with that honor and company, that your Vertues merit. But ſince it cannot be ſo, and you muſt be there ſo ſoon, I will ſend you in that manner I told you. To which, Mr. *Thorel* replied, Sir the effects without your words, have made me know your good will, which I neither deſerve, nor ever ſhall; but I can ſcarce believe it poſſible, I ſhould to morrow be in *Pavia*. Nevertheleſs ſince you have promiſed, I deſire it may be done quickly, for to morrow is the laſt day of the time. *Saladine* ſaid it ſhould be done, and cauſed a very rich Bed to be made in his Hall according to their faſhion, of Velvet, and Cloath of Gold, with a counterpoint embroidered with Pearls and Precious Stones, two Pillows likewiſe ſutable to the Bed. This done he Cloathed Mr. *Thorel*, in a *Saracens* Robe, the richeſt that was ever ſeen; and on his head he put a large Turbant, according to their faſhion. Then ſitting by him, almoſt weeping, he began to ſay, Mr. *Thorel*, the hour that muſt ſeparate you and I, approaches; and becauſe I cannot accompany you, for

the

the quality of the way you are to take will not ſuffer it, I muſt take my leave of you here in this Chamber. Therefore before I bid you adieu, I deſire you by the love that is between us, That after you have put your affairs in order in *Lombardy*, you will come and ſee me once more before you die, that ſo I may be recompenſed of the griet I have to part with you ſo ſuddenly: And in the mean time, pray think it no trouble to viſit me with Letters, for I ſhall as willingly do any thing for your ſake, as any man that lives.

Mr. *Thorel* could not withhold his tears; and therefore to hinder them, he anſwered in few words, That it was impoſſible he ſhould ever forget his good deeds; and that he would do without fail what he had commanded him, if God permitted him leiſure. So *Saladine* having embraced and kiſſed him, ſaid to him with tears, *Farewel.* The other Barons took leave of him likewiſe. The Doctor not long after brought him a drink to ſtrengthen him; but he had no ſooner drank it, then he fell aſleep. By this time the *Negromancer* was ready ſtaying to be diſpatched. *Saladine* therefore cauſed

cauſed Mr. *Thorel* to be laid, as he was ſleeping, on the rich Bed he had prepared. By him he placed a large and rich Crown with an Inſcription, ſignifying it was for Mr. *Thorel*'s Wife; on the other ſide, a Sword, whoſe riches were ineſtimable. Then on each ſide, a Golden Baſon full of Double Duckats, and Precious Stones, and Jewels. On his Breſt, he placed a Plate beſet with Pearls; and on his Finger he put a Ring, wherein was ſet a Carbuncle ſo reſplendent, that it ſeemed a Lighted Torch. This done he kiſſed him, and bid the *Negromancer* diſpatch: So that Mr. *Thorel* and the Bed, in the preſence of *Saladine*, were carried out of ſight, and not long after put in Saint *Peters* Church of *Pavia*.

The Sexton next morning entering into the Church with a Light, amazed at the ſight of this rich Bed, ran away in great fear: Which the Abbot and Monks perceiving, Come let us ſee, ſaid they, what hath frighted you; then the Abbot and Monks entred into the Church, and as with ſeveral Torches they had brought, they were looking on, and admiring the Riches of the Bed; the Knight awaked

and

and fetcht a great ſigh: This made both the Abbot and Monks to flie, as the Sexton had done before, crying out, *God help us.*

Mr. *Thorel* opening his Eyes, and looking round about him, perceived he was where he had deſired of *Saladine* to be, and without going farther; becauſe he ſaw the Monks did already run away, he called the Abbot by his name, deſiring him not to be afraid, for he was *Thorel* his Nephew. The Abbot hearing that, was more afraid then before, for it was the common talk, that he was killed in the Wars; yet after ſome words had paſſed between them at a diſtance, he began to be a little better aſſured; and making the Sign of the Croſs, he went to him. To whom Mr. *Thorel* ſaid, What are you afraid of Father, I am alive, God be thanked, and am come from beyond the Sea hither.

The Abbot by this time; though he had a great Beard, and was in ſtrange habit, perceived it was he; and taking him by the hand, ſaid, My ſon thou art welcome. But you muſt not wonder that we were afraid, for there is not one in the

City that doth not firmly believe you are dead; insomuch, that the Lady *Addaliette* your Wife, overcome with the Prayers and Threatnings of her Parents, is against her will to be married this day, and all things necessary for the Feast are ready. Then Mr. *Thorel* rose up, and having given great presents to the Abbot and the Monks, desired them to speak nothing of his return, until such times he had performed a business he intended. Then putting his treasure in a sure place, he told his Uncle all that had happened to him since his departure. But, said he, before my Friends know any thing of this, I would willingly know how my Wife will bear this marriage; and although it be not the custom for Churchmen to go to such Feasts, I desire you for the love of me, to give order we may be there. The Abbot answered, He would willingly do it; and as soon as the day came, he sent word to the Bridegroom that he would come with a friend of his to the wedding; to whom he answered, *They should be welcome.* Therefore when Dinner came, Mr. *Thorel* in the same habit he was in, went with the Abbot to the Bridegrooms house,

where

where he was admired by all, but known by none. For the Abbot ſaid he was a *Saracene*, that the Sultan had ſent Ambaſſador to the King of *France*. He was placed at a Table over againſt his Wife, who did it on purpoſe that ſhe might have the better view of his ſtrange habit. He was alſo very glad of the pleaſure he had to ſee her, and perceived eaſily by her countenance ſhe was not well contented with the marriage. She oftentimes looked on him, not for any knowledge ſhe had of him, but for his great Beard, his Turbant, and his ſtrange apparel; alſo the firm belief ſhe had that he was dead, blinded her eyes. But when Mr. *Thorel* thought it fit time to try whether ſhe remembred him, or no; he took in his hand the Ring ſhe gave him at his departure, and calling to a young Page that ſerved by her. Pray, ſaid he, tell the Bride from me, that it is the cuſtom of my Countrey when any ſtranger is at the Table, that the Bride to ſignifie ſhe is glad of his coming there, ſends him the Cup wherein ſhe drinks full of Wine; and after the ſtranger hath drank what he pleaſeth, he covers it, and ſends it to her, who to ſhow ſhe is pleaſed

with his being there, drinks the reſt. The young Page did his meſſage to the Bride, who taking him for ſome great perſon; and to ſhow that ſhe was pleaſed with his being there, ſhe commanded they ſhould waſh a great Golden Cup that ſtood before her and fill it full with Wine and carry it to the ſtranger. Mr. *Thorel* in the mean time, put the Ring ſhe had given him in his mouth, and as he drank, he let it fall in the Cup, no body perceiving it, then leaving but little Wine, he covered it, and ſent it to the Lady, who received it; and that the cuſtom might be accompliſhed, ſhe opened it and drank the reſt. Then perceived ſhe the Ring, and without ſaying a word, looked on it, and knowing it to be the ſame ſhe gave Mr. *Thorel* when he parted from her; ſhe looked more ſtedfaſtly on him, and at laſt knowing him, roſe without regarding what was before her, and embracing him, cryed, *My Lord, and my Husband.*

Then Mr. *Thorel* deſiring every one to keep their place, related all that had happened to him from the time he went to the War, concluding, That the Gentleman ought not to be diſpleaſed, who thinking he

he was dead, had taken his Wife for his Bride, if he being alive had taken her from him again.

The Bridegroom seeing himself deceived, answered freely, and as a Friend, *That it was in his power to do with his own what he pleased.* The Lady then took off the Rings and Crown she had of her new Husband, and put on the Ring she found in the Cup; and likewise the Crown that *Saladine* had sent her, and went with all the pomp of the Wedding to Mr. *Thorel*'s house. There he gave large presents to him that made the Feast, to the Abbot, and to all his Relations; and afterwards sent the news of his good fortune with thanks to *Saladine*.

These are the ends of Mr. *Thorel*'s and his Ladies troubles; and this the recompence of his vertues, with which the Widow entertained my Master at the Fountain. But I fear I have trespassed too much on the Readers patience by this long digression, which makes me draw back my thoughts, and bring them out of the Garden into the Kitchin, to relate what passed at Dinner between me and the two Maids. For if the relation prove as

pleaſant to the Reader, as the thing it ſelf did to me, he ſhall therein reap much content: It was as followeth.

CHAP. XI.

He lies with the Chamber-Maid, then puts her off for a Beautiful and Vertuous Virgin, to Laris, *the Widows Son, with whom he lodgeth; afterwards marrieth himſelf to the Kitchin Maid, a very pleaſant device.*

SEveral Authors have writ of our Nation, of the Men, the Women, and its ſeveral Commodities; and you have enough of them in *England*, better known by converſing with them, then by deſcription of them. I ſhall therefore ſay this onely of them, that they have the moſt voluble Tongues of any Nation under Heaven, eſpecially the Females, that you may ſooner want ears, then they words; and as they are infinite in chat, ſo are they regardleſs of the company they ſpeak in, be he friend or ſtranger; though indeed no man is a ſtranger

to

to them. In ſmall time, they are extreamly familiar, full of laughter, and toying, and laſcivious Songs. This made me, for I had now been two moneths here, as free as they; and in praiſing their Beauties, their Voices, and good Parts, I ſpent all the time that I was in their company. Inſomuch, that I always ſpent Dinner and Supper time in the greateſt merriment imaginable, for we were onely three, the two Maids and I; the one was indeed a French beauty, fair, adorned with blackneſs of Hair, ſtrait bodied, her hands long and ſlender; the other of the common mould. So that one appeared the Offſpring of day, the other of night. And I had enough to do to pleaſe the fair without diſpleaſing the foul, and to content the foul, without making the fair one jealous. Nevertheleſs I let ſlip no occaſion to the effecting of both. After Dinner (as I informed you before) my Maſter, the Widow, and her Children, commonly walked to the Fountain in the Garden, the Kitchin-maid returned to her work, which gave a ſpare hour to me, and the Chamber-maid. But becauſe kiſſing openly in *France*, is not the faſhion ſo much, as in other Coun-

treys; and the Women are very ſparing to receive ſuch kindneſſes, I perceived that the wanton deſires which all Maids are ſubject too, did require a more compleat ſatisfaction.

This made me bend my diſcourſe that way, and how happy he were that ſhould enjoy ſuch a Beauty, giving always by my words and actions, manifeſt ſigns of my affection. I was at that time alſo full of the Money I had gained of *Laris*, and preſented her with ſome ſmall toys; that in concluſion I wrought ſo upon her, that there was nothing wanting to the perfection of our love, but convenient time. Whileſt therefore the Widow entertained my Maſter at the Fountain, I enjoyed my Lady, but not without promiſe of marriage, which I valued not, ſince I never meant to be a man of my word. But after I had enjoyed her ſo often, that I began to be cloyed, I wanted not a device to free my ſelf from my promiſe; for I perceived *Laris* that had taſted the Farmers Daughter was ready for a freſh bit, and had asked me often concerning it. I know not any, ſaid I, of the like nature with the Farmers Daughter: But one I know that is

ſo

ſo deſperately in love with you, that, becauſe her Fortune is not correſpondent to her Beauty, I fear will die for your ſake. *Laris* who knew by his former paſſion, that it was poſſible for one to die for love, were ſhe as beautiful, ſaid he ſmiling, as ſhe is loving; it is not her fortune, ſince mine is favorable enough, ſhould part us. Give me but a *Venus*, ſaid he, it matters not whether ſhe be naked or no. Well ſaid I, give me but Twenty Piſtols to adorn her, and you ſhall marry one of the moſt beautiful, and moſt vertuous Virgins that ever you ſaw. There they are, ſaid he, thou haſt been faithful to me in my firſt love; and if thou canſt bring me but the Jewel thou haſt promiſed, thou ſhalt not want thy reward. So the next time I met my love, I proferred her a new, and one of the beſt Garments then in faſhion, as a reward of her kindneſs, ſhe thankfully received it; and indeed, excepting that Epidemical Diſeaſe, that ſhe, as well as all her ſex, had been ſubject too; ſhe was a ſweet Creature, and thus adorned a Grace.

Now ſaid I to her, it is true, I have promiſed you Marriage, but I am a ſtranger

in

in this place, and not able to keep you at that rate I love you, I do intend therefore to match thee to a young and rich Gentleman, a friend of mine, who wants nothing but such beauty to crown his happiness.

In fine, I acquainted her with the Plot, nor was she averse from my Propositions, since the thing would be so much for her advantage: Therefore I brought her to *Laris*, to whom she appeared so far beyond what she ever had done, that she blinded his eyes, and he knew her not.

It were tedious to rehearse the Discourses that passed between them, but I brought it to pass at last, that within a weeks time she and *Laris* should be married at a Tenants House of his, in the Valley of *Montmorencie*. Which to give it his due praise, is one of the places which Nature seemeth prodigally to have blest, both with Wine and Corn; that by a contrary, their Love would needs succeed, as *Sine Cerere & Baccho friget* Venus. I promised to procure a Priest, and send him thither, desiring to be excused at Dinner, least by my absence, our house might suspect the truth.

Laris

Laris therefore that day he went to the appointed place, Here are my Keys, ſaid he, go to my Cabinet, and take out what Money you want, to take up a Lodging for us, againſt night, in *Paris*, and to provide what ever elſe you ſhall think fitting. I came to the Cabinet, and my curious eye would not be contented with one Bag, but I pried into every Drawer; and when I ſaw ſo much Gold and Silver, I was at a ſtand, whether I ſhould then rob him of all, or no. Nevertheleſs I left it for a better opportunity, & took no more then at preſent was needful, and finding the Prieſts habit in the Chamber that was not yet ſent home, I put it on and diſguiſed my ſelf the beſt I could; for I was reſolved to looſe nothing that might be got, no not ſo much as the Prieſts wages.

Thus I met, married them, and returned undiſcovered; but though in the morning early. I ſtole out of our houſe, and eſcaped the eyes of all, I could not do it ſo cautiouſly in the Evening, but the Kitchin-maid ſaw me go up Stairs; yet being we were Lodgers, and many came in and out without examination, I paſſed undiſcovered who I was. I ſoon ſlipped

off

of my Prieſts Garment, and came down into the Kitchin, to ſee if we were not diſcovered by the Houſhold; but by reaſon that *Laris* was uſed to be out a Hunting ſometimes a day or two, and the Chamber-maid and I had leave, we were not in the leaſt ſuſpected. The Kitchin-maid onely was ſomething jealous of me, for I had always ſhewed her much kindneſs, and as Women in ſuch matters are commonly better noſed then Men, ſmelt ſomething of a Plot. For I no ſooner came near her, but I wiſh you joy, ſaid ſhe, of your new Bride, I perceive you are married to day; for I ſaw the Prieſt go up juſt now to your Chamber. I was, I confeſs, much ſuppriſed at her words, and was ſcarce at the inſtant able to make a good apology, ſhe had aſſaulted me ſo unawares. Nevertheleſs, reſolving now to drive the Nail to the Head. There was indeed, ſaid I, a Prieſt of my acquaintance with me, even now, and is above ſtill writing ſome Prayers for me, but where the Bride is, I cannot tell except it be your ſelf. No ſaid ſhe, there is ſome body you love better in the houſe then I; and ſince I have hitherto been aſhamed to diſcover

cover my love to you, I ſhall henceforth never tell you I love you. Well ſaid I, embracing her, I cannot blame thy jealouſie, my dear; and ſince I ſee thou doeſt really love me; I will now free thee from all ſuſpition that I love any one elſe. The Prieſt is now above writing for me, as I told thee; and if thou art willing, he ſhall immediately marry us. But leaſt your Miſtreſs call you, or my Maſter call me in the mean time, and diſcover our intentions, you ſhall ſtay here below, and I ſhall be above; and the Prieſt ſhall come down and ask thee what is requiſit on thy part, and me on my part; for ſo ſmall diſtance of place ſhall never cauſe us to be leſs lawfully joyned, then if we were both together; and if your Miſtreſs or her Daughter ſee the Prieſt with you, an excuſe will not be wanting, Either that he is your friend, or that he ſtayeth for me.

The poor Wench all inflamed, and ſo far beyond her ſelf, that ſhe might eaſily have been perſwaded to ſtranger and more incredible things then this. I would willingly, my dear, ſaid ſhe, conſent to this; but I would have ſome ſmall time

to

to make me ready, that the Prieſt ſee me not thus. Well ſaid I, that matters not much, ſince he is a moſt intimate Friend of mine, nevertheleſs make all the haſte you can to put on ſome clean Linnen, and in the mean time, I ſhall acquaint my friend with our deſign; then embracing her, I went up to my Chamber to ſend the Prieſt; and ſhe to hers, to dreſs her. The deſire ſhe had to be married, ſoon made her ready; and my negligence was never ſo great as to let the Prieſt tarry long after: For I had now married *Laris* twice, and was expert in the Art.

Putting on therefore my Prieſts habit, and altering the colour of my face with a ſwarthy powder, I had uſed before for the ſame purpoſe, and a patch on my face, I came down to her in the Kitchin; but certainly it would have made a Dog laugh, that had been as conſcious as I, to ſee what countenance ſhe bore at this Marriage. Nevertheleſs, my ſtrong reſolution had ſo ſetled my Diaphragm, that I did not ſo much as ſmile at the conceit that would have made another burſt with laughter. And when I had performed the duty of the Prieſt, returned to my Chamber, and laid

laid aſide my diſguiſe, my colour, and patch, I came down to do the part of a Husband. So that night I had my Bed-fellow, as well as *Laris*; for ſhe failed not, when all were in Bed, to come to me; and indeed ſo imployed me, that I could not ſpare one minute more to my Muſe, then juſt to acknowledge my good Fortune in this Hexaſtick.

Darkneſs that equals all, hath made my Bride
As fair as Laris *Bed-fellow. Then tell,*
What matters, whether foul or fair? Beſide
I was the firſt, he's ſecond at the Well.
Virginities I crop, but he gets none,
And's forc'd when I have done to pick the Bone.

But the next Morning I found ſo much leiſure, as to add theſe few Lines.

In Black Apparel hitherto I lie
Secure, the colour of my Knavery.
No one ſuſpects the Robes of Holy Men,
And when the Devil's like an Angel, then

'Tis

'Tis on ſome great deſign you'll ſay, for he
That openly can work ſo cunningly,
Would never hide himſelf from Mortals view,
Unleſs he fear'd we knew him by his hew.
Nay, when the Spirit tempts the Holy One,
He's Pictur'd like a ſubtil Monk, or none.

CHAP. XX.

His Dream. How he runs away from his Maſter, robs Laris *of his riches, and goes towards* Orleans. *With a ſtrange adventure that hapned to him in the way.*

SCarce was the Sun riſen, but as though he envied our happineſs, or deſired to ſee our Faces, he darted a Ray into my Eyes, through the Window, and forced me to acknowledge Day, and part with my *Dalila* for fear we ſhould be diſcovered. But ſhe was no ſooner gone, then a light ſlumber overwhelmed my Senſes, and I dreamed as followeth.

I Went, I thought, in an inſtant of time, and paſſed over many Green Groves and Meadows adorned with the verdure of a Fruitful Spring; till at length I came to a fair Houſe, through which I paſſed into a Pleaſant Garden; and of all the rarities that I ſaw, for they were more then my memory could comprehend, I remembred this onely, That I ſaw upon a large Vine a White Dove, ſitting on a fair Vine; and whileſt I looked upon her, there came a ſtrange Bird that courted her, and no ſooner had trodden her, but fell down, and I could no more ſee him. After he was vaniſhed, I thought it grew Night, and by the Light of the Moon, I diſcovered, That I was near a City, where I ſaw the ſame Bird, I had before ſeen to vaniſh, riſe again out of the Ground, but his Feathers were off, and he ran as conſcious of his nakedneſs to hide himſelf; but there came an innumerable company of other Fowl about him, and all pluckt ſome of their Feathers off, and ſtuck them on his Back, till at length he flew away with them; and I, that even now, thought I had been near a City, found my ſelf in a Church yard, where a Crow was picking a hole in the

Ground; whence on a ſudden, the Bird I had ſeen before, flew out with a Golden Bell on his foot; making a noiſe with it, and rejoycing at his eſcape; and at the Riſing Sun, which I thought appeared ſo bright, that it dazled my Eyes, and ſo I awoke.

This Dream was ſo lively in my thoughts, that I could ſcarce baniſh it thence; nevertheleſs, my mind ran ſo on *Laris* Cabinet, that I could not reſt till I had reſolved to make my ſelf Maſter of it. This made me riſe at Seven, for my Maſter ſeldom roſe till Ten, and go into the City, and buy me a diſguiſe at the Brokers; which having done, I came home and packt up the Treaſure; and as my ambition was always too great to be controul-ed by another mans will, I took this opportunity to ſet my ſelf free, both from my Maſter, and the ill conſequences that might follow the wickedneſs I had committed under the colour of a Prieſt.

And thus I took my leave of *Paris*, till coming into a convenient place, I ſtript my ſelf, and threw my old Cloaths with a great Stone into the River; then putting on thoſe I had newly bought, I took the way

way to *Orleans*, and having no other company, then my thoughts, I made these short reflexions on what was past.

On Paris, *alluding to the Epigram in the Fifteenth Chapter.*

Paris, *'tis true, I came to drive a trade,*
As many other Citizens have done,
Within thy Walls; but when to break afraid
They are, how ſoon like Phanthaſms they are gone.
Thus, leaſt my credit crack, I run away
With others Money, richer far then they.

To his Maſter, the Good Engliſh Gentleman.

THe Dog, the Fable ſays, did once invite
The Woolf unto his Kennel by the light
Of Cynthia's *Beams, and ſhew'd him all his food,*
Horſe-fleſh, and Bullocks Livers, freſh and good,
A Kennel large, clean Straw, and this to try
If he would be of the ſame Family.

The Woolf that oftentimes had wanted meat,
And in the Winter ſtarv'd for want of heat,
Lik'd all things well, and thought it meet to
dwell,
And eat ſuch meat, and live in ſuch a Cell.
But when he ſaw the Coller hanging by,
Farewel, ſaid he, I'd rather ſtarve and
die
In Liberty, then to be chain'd and have
The greateſt Plenty, being but a Slave.

Nomine mutato narratur fabula de { *te* / *me*

But while I was thus muſing, on a ſudden the Clouds gathered to ſuch a thickneſs, the Wind blew ſo vehemently, and the Rain fell ſo impetuouſly, That I began to fear it proceeded from ſome extraordinary cauſe, rather then the common operation of Nature, as *Virgil* ſaid in his *Geor.* I.

Sæpe ego, cum flavis meſſorem induceret
arvis
Agricola, & fragili jam ſtringeret hordea
culmo,
Omnia ventorum concurrere prælia vidi,

Quæ

Quæ gravidam late ſegetem ab radicibus imis
Sublime expulſam eruerent, ita turbine nigro
Ferret hyems culmumque levem, ſtipulaſque volantes.
Sæpe etiam immenſum cœlo venit agmen aquarum,
Et fœdam glomerant tempeſtatem imbribus atris
Collectæ ex alto nubes, ruit arduus æther,
Et pluvia ingenti ſata læta boumque labores
Diluit, implentur foſſæ, & cava flumina creſcunt
Cum ſonitu, fervetque fretis ſpirantibus æquor.
Ipſe pater media nimborum in nocte coruſca.
Fulmina molitur dextra, quo maxima motu
Terra tremit, fugere feræ, & mortalia corda
Per gentes humilis ſtravit pavor. Ille flagranti
Aut Atho, *aut* Rhodopen, *aut alta* Ceraunia *telo*
Dejicit, ingeminant Auſtri, *& denſiſſimus imber,*
Nunc nemora ingenti vento nunc littora plangunt.

So vehement was the Storm at last, and the Waters fell in so great abundance, that had it not been for the shelter the Trees afforded me, I had there perished according to my deserts. There came at length a Man with two Horses, almost drowned, as he seemed to be, to the same place for shelter. How far friend, said I, have I to *Montliherrie*, a league, said he, and better; and though you have time enough to go thither, if the weather were fair, yet I fear you will meet so many Washes by the way, that you cannot pass on foot. If it be so, said I, (for I knew not whether he were a robber or no, and would not in any wise give him reason to suspect I had store of Money about me) and you are pleased to lend me the Horse you lead; though I have not Money here at present, yet when I come to *Montliherrie*, where my Friends live, I shall give you a Crown, and greater satisfaction, if that be not sufficient. It is agreed, said he, and put the Bridle in my hand, let us go, I see the Wind ceaseth, the Rain is stopt, and the Air cleareth. He had no sooner said it, but the day was in an excellent mediocrity of temper, not in the least disposed to a Cloud,

Cloud, and the gentle Wind rather fanned then disturbed the Air: So I mounted my Horse, who needed no Spurs to set him forwards; for as soon as ever I was upon his Back, his Master led the way, and I followed in so full a carrear, that I knew not how I went, till just at the end of the Town *Montliherrie*, which is a place old and ruinous, he stopped as instantly, so that I fell at least three yards from him; and before I could recover my self, followed his Master, who swift as the Wind was returning back to the place, where first I met him. This made me conceive, he could be no other then one of the *Dæmones Montani*: For I remembred I had heard a story to the same purpose, very elegantly expressed in these words.

Urbs antiqua jacet celebri contermina Rheno
Vangionum *longe non ea distat humo:*
Nescio qui Nemetes *hanc incoluisse feruntur,*
Sunt ubi Francorum *busta quaterna ducum.*
Cæsareis *sedes fuit illa cohortibus olim,*
Nomen ob id Grajum *spira vocata tenet.*

Hic humili modicis a ſtirpe cohortibus olim
Exiguæ quidam Navita puppis erat:
Qui calamo piſces linoque madente ſolebat
Fallere, jam radios ſole tegente ſuos.
Is dum forte leves hamos ac retia tractat,
Non procul a ripa lubrice Rhene tua:
Ecce per obſcuræ tenebroſa crepuſcula noctis
Obtulit ignoti ſe nova forma juri.
Atro tectus erat monachum ſimulante cucullo:
Utque ſolent raſo vertice tonſus erat:
Nauta propinquantem conſueto more ſalutans
Ecquid agis ſeræ tempore noctis? Ait.
Ille ſub hæc: adſum longinquis miſſus ab oris
Nuncius, ipſe tua me rogo lintre vehas.
Ut cito tranſmiſſo contingam flumine ripam,
Dixerat, aſſumptum navita lintre tulit.
Famque fere medio curſus nox atra ferebat,
Flexaque lenta pigri plauſtra bootis erant,
Cum procul in viridi venientes margine ripæ,
Quinque cucullígeros rurſus adeſſe videt.
Exoptatque illis piſcator ut ante, ſalutem,
Quoque velint media pergere nocte rogat.
E quibus unus ait: Nos magna pericula cogunt,
Obſcura tutas carpere nocte vias.

Omnibus

Omnibus inviſi ſumus, intentatque nefandam
Sacrificis nobis turba profana necem.
At te ſi quis amor tangit, ſi cura piorum,
Tranſuche *navigio corpora noſtra tuo.*
Ut tumidas lati ſuperemus fluminis undas,
Neve moraturis impediamur aquis:
Sic optata tuis fortuna laboribus adſit
In tua ſic multus retia piſcis eat.
Annuit & remo propellens Navita cymbam,
Mox jubet adductâ ſcandere puppe ratem.
Sed mihi quis dixit ſolvet mercede laborem?
Alter ad hæc, nullas ſcis quod habemus opes,
Raraque percipimus diſcordi munera vulgo,
Nec tamen ingratos nos habiturus eris:
Si nos in ſolido rurſus fortuna locabit,
Præmia pro tali digna labore feres.
Solverat extremo piſcator margine navem,
Famque fere medias illa ſecabat aquas:
Sidereas removent ſubeuntia nubila ſtellas,
Præcipiti fertur puppis & icta noto:
Incipiunt nigris horreſcere fluctibus undæ,
Sævaque tempeſtas imbribus orta furit.
Ipſa repentino faſſus pallore timorem
Nauta, quid hæc, inquit, vult nova cauſa malis.
Nulla tamen pluviæ venturæ ſigna notabam
Sol ubi flagrantes æquore merſit equos

Nulla

Nulla lacus uſquam circumvolitabat hirundo,
Ulla nec eſt oculis Ardea viſa meis:
Tum nec luna nigro ſurgebat pallida vultu,
Clarus & occiduo lumine Phœbus erat.
Talia jactanti diſturbant verba procellæ,
Impediuntq; graves ora loquentis aquæ,
Pene procelloſi ſubuerſaque turbinis ictu
Navis, & inſanis fluctibus hauſta fuit.
Ardua ſublatas tendens ad ſidera palmas,
A ſuperis erans navita poſcit opem.
Quid facis? è Monachis ait unus, & improbe dixit,
Deſine, voce tua ſollicitare Deum.
Tum magna tollens immanem pondere contum
Nauta parum fœlix quo prius uſus erat:
Illius hoc humeros pulſat atque terga fatigat,
Cæſus ad extremum dum fuit uſque necem,
Proditus eſt tandem perverſi Dæmonis æſtus,
Detectaſque fuit fraude patente dolus:
Vana receſſerunt in inanes corpora ventos,
Manſit & ingratus nave relictus odor.
Mox quoq; purgato fugerunt nubila cælo,
Et rediit pulſis aura ſerena notis.
Territus hoc monſtro gelidum ſine ſanguine corpus.
Tollit, & ad ripam navita puppe redit.
Iſthic in viridi procumbit languidus herba,
Donec ab Eois ſol fuit ortus aquis.

Mane

Mane ſub occaſum pulſis Hyperione ſtellis
Ducitur a puero prætereunte domum:
Omnia commemorans præſentibus æger amicis
Clauſit adhuc illo fata ſuprema die.
Poſtera cum croceis fulgens aurora quadrigis
Protulerat roſeas ore nitente genas,
Accidit & ſimilis diverſo tempore caſus,
Acta ſed eventu res meliore fuit.
Summa procul radiis feriente cacumina Phæbo
Carpebat ſolus mane viator Iter.
Qui Nemetum *poſtquam ægreſſus finibus eſſet*
Primus ubi poſitus diſtat a urbe lapis:
Adventare nigro tectam velamine currum
Conſpicit, hic monachis currus onuſtus erat:
Ordine quem juncti ſeptem traxere jugales
Quarta ſed ablato defuit axe rota:
Quiq; manu flexas auriga tenebat habenas,
Terribili naſo conſpiciendus erat.
Attonitus curru ſtat prætereunte viator,
Nec monachos illos ſpectra ſed eſſe videt.
Evolat extemplo ſublatus ad æthera currus,
Miſtaque cum fumo flamma ſequuta fuit.
Triſtis & infauſtum belli mortalibus omen
Horrida per nubes arma dedere ſonum.
Ille ſtatim rediens, quæ viderat, indicat urbi:
Eſt ea res certa cognita vera fide.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXI.

He goes to Eſtampes, *where three accidents befall him in one night.*

THe foulneſs of the weather and the accident that befell me by the way, made me take Inn at *Montliherrie* that night, but the next morning as ſoon as day, I ſet forth on my journey towards *Orleans*, and at length came to *Eſtampes*, where at a diſtance I could perceive an infinite company of People in a fair green Medow; but what the occaſion of ſo great a concourſe might be, I could not imagine, till at length approaching nearer, I perceived they were people of all Ages and Sexes, and of all conditions, dancing and making merry in ſeveral companies. Old Wives I ſaw which could not ſet foot to ground without a Crutch in the Streets, had here taught their feet to Amble: and others were ſo ragged, that a ſwift Galliard would almoſt have ſhaked them into nakedneſs; but leaving theſe wrinkled Brows, I proceeded farther to a company of freſh Beauties, and indeed

indeed I ſaw ſuch, that they forced me to ſtay ſome days longer then I intended before I came to it; I took my Lodging in one of the beſt Inns, and the next day furniſhed my ſelf both with good Apparel and a Horſe, for I reſolved never to accept of any in the road again for *Old Nick*'s ſake. The next morning I took my Horſe and rode out to ſee the Town, which ſeemeth to have been of great importance, there being five Walls and Gates in a length, one before another, ſo that it appeareth to be rather a continuation of many Towns together, then ſimply one; and whilſt I was gazing up and down whereſoever curioſity led me, I eſpied at laſt a Woman very fair and of moſt aimable parts, this made me look too long upon her, being the handſomeſt object that ever I had ſeen; Inſomuch that ſhe took notice at length of me as ſhe looked out of the window, and perceiving by my Curioſity and Gallantry, that I was both a ſtranger and no mean perſon, ſhe beckoned to me to goe to her door, and went her ſelf from the window to meet me at the door; where ſhe no ſooner came, but you are welcome my friend, ſaid ſhe, if you pleaſe to light

off

off your Horſe and come in, and although you may wonder that being a Woman and a ſtranger to you, I offer ſuch kindneſs, yet your admiration ſhall ceaſe when I acquaint you with the reaſon of it. I did indeed much wonder at the civility of this Woman, and the grace wherewith ſhe uttered each word, but above all, her comely Perſonage was ſuch, as it made her appear to my Eyes rather a Goddeſs then any humane Creature; therefore partly, moved with her deſires, partly with my own curioſity, to ſee the end of this adventure, I made this reply unto her. *Madam, I know not any thing in me that deſerveth any ſuch kindneſs at your hands, being both a ſtranger to the place, yet ſince it is your Command that I ſtay, and there is no denial to be made to ſo much Beauty, I am willing to do your pleaſure.* Then ſhe called one of her ſervants, and giving him charge to look well to my Horſe, ſhe conducted me through a ſpacious Hall into a fair Appartment richly adorned with Pictures, and ſcented with Perfumes. Now, Sir, ſaid ſhe, I ſhall in few words tell you the reaſon of my boldneſs and the cauſe of my importunity to make you ſtay.

My

My Husband belated one night as he returned from Hunting, came to a poor mans Cottage, and desired a Lodging if it were possible for him and his two men, (for the Roads were then filled with Robbers, and he was a man that never went out without Money and good Horses) the poor Man who lived there with his Wife and two Sons and one Daughter the most contented life in the World, free from the griping Cares and tumultuous noise of the City, busying his thoughts onely to enjoy, not encrease his Estate. Gentle stranger, said he, you are welcome to my poor Farme, and to what ever in it can make you so, and if you are pleased to accept my proffer, you may for the time you are here, think your self Lord of the House, and Command me as your Servant: Mr. *Beauto* (for so was my Husbands name) admiring much the civility of the stranger, and knowing there was no better answer to be made to so generous a person, then the accepting of his proffers, I am exceedingly obliged to you, said he, if you should lend me but the meanest part of your House to shelter my self and my two men this night, for as much as the

the Roads are full of Robbers, and I owe my life to your kindneſs. But ſince you proffer me your ſervice, which I do in no wiſe merit, nor can by any means requite; I ſhall certainly for ever hold you as a perſon to whom I am moſt indebted and obliged. In ſhort, he was conducted in, and the Table was ſpread, not with the ſuperfluous compoſures that Art hath found out for Luxury, but the good and wholſome Food that Nature hath provided for us.

This put me in mind of that pleaſant Story of *Philemon* and *Baucis* when they entertained the Gods, according to the Poets words.

Ponitur hic bicolor ſincera bacca Minervæ,
Conditaque in liquida corna autumnalia fece,
Intybaque & radix & lactis maſſa coacti,
Ovaque non acri leviter verſata favilla,
Prunaque & in patulis redolentia mala caniſtris,
Hic nux, hic mixta eſt rugoſis carica palmis,
Et de purpureis collectæ vitibus uvæ.
Omnia fictilibus nitide.

They

They on the Table ſet Minerva's *Fruit;*
The double coloured Olive: Endive Root,
Radiſh and Cheeſe, and to the Board there came
A Diſh of Eggs near roaſted by the flame.
Next they had Nuts, courſe Oats, and Lenten Figs,
And Apples from a Basket made with Twigs.
And Plumbs and Grapes cut newly from the Tree,
All ſerv'd in Earthen Diſhes Huſwifery.)

She continued her Story farther, that her Husband was ſo extreamly contented with that kind of food, that he had often made mention of the happineſs that poor Man enjoyed; nay, that even on his death-bed, when he could ſcarce remember any thing, he called her to him, and embracing her, *My dear Wife*, ſaid he, *I am now departing into another World, and ought to have little thought of this; yet the civilities of that poor man do ſo run in my mind, that I deſire of thee, and I hope thou wilt perform it when I am dead, being the laſt Petition I am like to make; That if ever ſtranger, whether poor or rich come near thy habi-*

tation, thou entertain for my ſake. He would have ſaid more, but Death tied his Tongue.

Now this is my reaſon, ſaid ſhe, that hath made me ſo bold as to deſire you to ſtay in my houſe, and I hope you will, if your occaſions permit, lodge here this Night, and receive the civilities that my Husband, whom, of all Men, I loved moſt dearly, hath obliged me by his laſt words, to ſhew unto you. Madam, ſaid I, though I ought not to think my ſelf worthy of the leaſt of theſe favors you have already done, and conſequently by no means, be ſo bold as to receive new ones from you; yet if the Prayers of your dying Husband, who was ſo dear unto you, and the love you bare him, command me to ſtay in this place to Night, I muſt of neceſſity conſent, or be the unworthieſt Man in the World.

In concluſion I was entertained all that day with the greateſt civilities imaginable, and at Supper, in the ſame manner, till it grew late, then was I conducted into a fair Bed-chamber, and ſoon after the Lady took her leave of me, leaving onely a Lackey in the room with me to wait upon

upon me. Ever ſince Supper I found my Body ſomething looſer then ordinary, and therefore deſired the youth to ſhow me, if there were any Privy near the place (for I feared I might have occaſion in the Night) ſo he ſhewed me a Private Cloſet there by, in which was a Cloſe-ſtool placed at the farther-end; ſo I diſmiſſed the youth, and went to my Bed, meditating on what was paſt, but little dreaming on what was to come: For her relation ſeemed ſo probable, and ſhe uttered it with ſo much paſſion, That I could not believe any Woman in the World could have acted a part ſo well.

Sometimes I thought on the Knight of *Pavia*'s entertaining the *Cyprian* Merchants, ſometime the good fortune he met with in *Saladines* Pallace came into my mind, ſometimes the accident that befel me by the way; for the Night was very hot, and the mu'tiplicity of my thoughts diſturbed my reſt ſo long, till at laſt I began to ſlumber rather then ſleep; and I thought I ſaw before my eyes, the ſame Bird I dreamed of that morning I left *Paris*, naked and coming out of the ground, as before he had appeared, but

ſomething I had eaten at Supper not agreeing with my ſtomach, interrupted the continuation of my dream, and forced me to riſe. The Moon was then up, and with the brightneſs of her light equalled the ſplendor almoſt of him that gave it. So I eaſily found my way to my Cloſet, yet not without ſtumbling for all that, that it ſeemed an ill omen to me of ſome future accident that ſhould befal me; nevertheleſs, my neceſſity preſſed me on, and I went in, but ſcarce were both Feet within the Threſhold, when touching upon a Trap door, I fell up to the middle in a Privy, advantageous onely in this, That the ſoftneſs kept me from bruiſing my Limbs, notwithſtanding I fell two ſtories. Now did I begin to curſe woman, and her whole Sex, that before I always adored, angry with my ſelf, that I had never thought it was true that the Poet ſaid of them.

Truſt not the thing call'd Woman, for ſhe's worſe
Then all ingredients clap'd into a curſe.
Were ſhe but ugly, peeviſh, proud, a whore,
Perjur'd, or painted; ſo ſhe were no more,

I could forgive her, and connive at this,
Alleaging ſtill that ſhe a Woman is:
But ſhe's far worſe, and will in time foreſtal
The Devil, and be the damning of us all.

But it was no time now to complain in ſuch terms, and the preſent danger I was in, drew off my mind from ſuch thoughts, to conſult for my ſafety. I groped on every ſide to try if I could find any way of evaſion, I found at laſt a ſmall cranny in the Boards, which being ſomewhat rotted with the moiſture of the place, I broke ſo big till I had good hold for both hands, then with all my ſtrength (and men in ſuch danger, are certainly more valid then at other times) I broke down a large Plank, and beating down the Dirt with it, I made a paſſage enough for my whole Body; but when I was out, I was at as great a ſtand as before, and knew not whether it were better to return and die ſecretly, then put my ſelf to an open ſhame. Nevertheleſs, ſince the Stars and Moon alone were conſcious to my miſeries hitherto, I reſolved to go waſh my ſelf at ſome Pump or Well, and then I might forge an excuſe in the Morning, that I had been robbed

of my Cloaths in the Night: So I went towards the Street, for I found my ſelf on the backſide of the Town, and I had ſeen many Pumps and Wells the day before, as I viewed each Street. So I came at length into the great Street, but as I was ſearching for ſome Water, I perceived Five or ſix men in a company coming towards me; ſo I ran to hide my ſelf in an Entery thereby, till ſuch time they were gone paſt; but it hapned then being about Twelve and one of the Clock, that the Watch were coming their round. And this knot of Theeves (for ſuch they were) to ſhelter themſelves from their Diſcoverers took Harbor in the ſame place. I crouded my ſelf behinde the door as near as poſſible to the Corner, the reſt did the like. But, I think, he fared beſt that was fartheſt off from me, for the next to me was almoſt in as bad a caſe as my ſelf. But they all being well noſed, began to ſmell the perfume, each accuſing one another; ſo that when I ſaw I could lie hid no longer, Gentlemen ſaid I, and told them in order what had hapned to me, adding many lies, and leaving out much of the truth. You ſee in what a caſe I am,

am, and if you will but conduct me to a place where I may finde ſome Water, or give me any Cloaths that you can ſpare, I may prove profitable to you in your deſigns, for I am in a deſperate condition, and there is nothing ſo difficult or perilous to be attempted, that I would not readily do to raiſe my fortune.

They were much ſurpriſed at my words, and finding by the Paſſion that I feigned, I was a reſolute perſon, and that my neceſſity would make me prove faithfull: ſwear, ſaid they, by thy head; for if thou ſhrinkeſt from us, thou loſeſt it, and by the head of our Captain: For if thou art as one of us, thou muſt ſerve him in all his commands, and we ſhall not onely ſave thy life; but according to thy valor and witty deſigns, thou ſhalt ſhare in our Booties. So I ſwore according to their ſolemnity, and they conducted me to a Well thereby, and let me down in the Bucket to cleanſe my ſelf; but before I could cleanſe my ſelf, for I was like the Blackamoor to be waſhed white, from the extremity of Naſtineſs, a good part of the Night was ſpent, and the Watch was returning, ſo they fled

to ſecure themſelves, and left me in the Well. Then came into my mind the Fable of the Fox and the Goat that went down into the Well, and when the Fox had climbed over the Goats back, he laughed heartily at the Goats ſimplicity, that had deſcended before ſhe knew how ſhe ſhould aſcend again.

But at length it ſo fell out (for as I before told you, the Nights were very hot, it being then the middle of Summer) that ſome of the Watch were dry, and Water here was the common drink of all thoſe, whoſe Purſes could not bear the ſtrength of Wine; ſo that they came to this Well to drink, and one beginning to turn the Winch, I think, ſaid he, the Devil is in the Well, for the Bucket is ſo heavy I can ſcarce move it; then the reſt began to help him, and ſo drew it up. I was no ſooner at the top, but I leaped out amongſt them, and they were all ſo frighted to ſee a naked man in white, or rather a ſpirit come out of the Well, that he thought himſelf the ſafeſt and wiſeſt, that quitted the place faſteſt. They flew away as faſt as people in ſuch a caſe are uſed, nay, beyond the common ſwiftneſs. For

Pedibus

Pedibus timor addidit alas.

So I remained in the place alone, and my companions ſeeing all that had paſſed, knew the Watch was diſperſed and frighted enough that night, and ſoon returned to me, one gave me Breeches, another an old Coat and Stockings, another Shooes, whether they were their own, or they had ſtoln them I examined not, but thanked them and put them on: well, ſaid they amongſt themſelves, we have gained nothing this night worth our pains hitherto; it is now the dead time of the night, the Watch is diſturbed and broke, the Moon favoureth, and we may eaſily attempt ſomething both to initiate the ſtrangers, and to benefit our ſelves.

Gentlemen, ſaid I, if you will take the advice of a ſtranger, and conſent to what I ſhall propoſe, being willing to revenge my loſs, I ſhall lead you to the houſe where this accident befel me; I know the paſſages of it, that it may eaſily be forced open, and that we ſhall gain a conſiderable booty therein, and I hope in this ſervice I ſhall ſo behave my ſelf as your Captain

tain ſhall not think ill that you have admitted me to your ſociety: they agreed to follow my advice, ſo we took our way directly to the Houſe (for there were not many ſtreets, and I eaſily found it out) and having examined all parts, we broke in at the weakeſt, which was under a window, there being nothing but a thin wall of Plaiſter and Laths, the reſt of the Houſe was Stone according to the French manner of building, and very ſtrong.

Now Gentlemen, ſaid I, I know theſe Chambers, do you diſperſe your ſelves over the outer parts of the houſe, ſo ſhall we ſoon make an end of the buſineſs: one went this way, another that, but I went directly to my own chamber and packt up my own Clothes, and whatſoever elſe was portable, then I turned to her Apartment (for it was near, and I had obſerved it the day before) and broke open the door; the noiſe awaked the wicked woman, and ſhe asked who was there, but I made no other anſwer, then you ſhall ſoon know, thou moſt unworthy of thy Sexe, and ran to her Bed, ſhe thought of nothing but death, the reward of her wickedneſs, and was not able to ſpeak one

word

word in her justification; so I dragged her from her Bed where she lay, with my sword in my hand, threatening present death if she offered to cry out, and brought her to the Trap she had prepared for others, take, said I, the reward of thy crime, for though I should have thought it impossible for so much Beauty to have harbored so much inhumanity, yet since my experience make me certain of it, though thou deserv'st a thousand deaths, yet in pity of thy Sexe, and according to justice, I shall inflict no more on thee then thou preparedst for me' then I threw her down without staying for her Answer or Apologie.

——Nec Lex est justior ulla
Quam necis artifices arte perire sua.

Then I went into her chamber and took the spoils of my enemy, and going down I found them all ready to depart; thence they conducted me down the great street, and brought me at last to an out-house at the end of the Town, where we no sooner knock'd but we were let in; it was then about four in the morning, and we found

a Table ready ſpread with good Cheer and Wine, there we all ſate down, and every one related his good ſucceſs, and what he had taken; not long after our Captain roſe, a Man of the biggeſt ſize that ever I ſaw any, and ſince his courage was anſwerable to his ſtature, I was very glad I had Liſted my ſelf under him; they related to him the whole adventure, and how I came into their company, and how I behaved my ſelf in the attempt. My misfortune gave every one cauſe of mirth, ſo that we paſſed the forepart of the morning very merrily, and the Captain welcomed me with a full Bowl and many generous expreſſions (for he was indeed as I learned afterwards a Lords Son in *France*, but his Father for ſome treaſonable words loſt both his Life and Eſtate, and left him behind to play upon the Subjects what his Father could not act on the King) thou art welcome ſtranger, ſaid he, to our Club, and if our kind of life agree with thy humour, I ſhall in few words ſhew thee thy Trade, and inſtruct thee in what thou art to do: If thou canſt procure ſo much Money as to buy thy ſelf a Horſe, and Piſtols, and other furniture for the Road,

Road, thou ſhalt immediately this day be of my company, if not, have but a little patience, as theſe have. You ſee how they fare, they live merrily, and want nothing, till ſuch time as Fortune provide thee one; for we are here of two ſorts, Horſmen, and Foot-men; not that there is any diſtinction amongſt us, or that one Face is better then another, but becauſe thoſe that are but newly driven to take up this kind of life, by ſome ſad accident or other, ſeldom have Money enough to furniſh themſelves with Horſes at firſt.

Sir, ſaid I, I ſhall wholly devote my ſelf to this ſervice, and ſince I am wholly indebted to theſe Gentlemen for my life, I am no leſs beholding to you for your kind reception of me into the company. I ſhall this day provide me with a Horſe, and other Accoutrements for the Field: For I will tell you a good reaſon, ſaid I, why I will never borrow that Beaſt, and thereupon told them what hapned me in the way, which cauſed great mirth to all the hearers. Whileſt we were thus diſcourſing there came in at the back door two Horſmen with a great Cloak-bag, which

which I ſuppoſe was newly taken in the Road; they ſaluted me with no leſs civility, then the reſt had done, and were very much contented with the relation of my adventures. After every one had drunk and eaten what he pleaſed, the Cloth was removed, and inſtead of it, was brought the Cloak-bag firſt, being a more noble prize taken upon the Road. What it contained, was diſtributed amongſt the company; but the Captain had three parts, the Horſmen two, and the reſt a ſingle part onely; ſo that my ſhare was very inconſiderable. Then were brought all the Packets, each of us had brought out of the Houſe, that we broke open which was more conſiderable, for we were in all Fifteen Perſons that were to have ſhares; the Captain, and five other Horſmen, and nine Footmen; and yet I had four Piſtols and odd Money for my ſhare, beſides the Cloaths, and other things of value, which were to be ſent beyond Sea, and ſold in a ſtrange place, and afterwards to be divided. My own Cloaths were amongſt the reſt, and the Captain was ſo generous, that for all they were part of the Booty, and might lawfully have been

ſent

ſent away amongſt the reſt, he gave me them, ſaying,

Shitten luck, is good luck.

It being then about Noon, every one departed to his own Lodgings, ſome in the Town, others there, with order to return to the ſame place at Eight in the Evening: Then I put on my Cloaths and went to my Inn; for my Cloak-bag was there, and a Hundred Crowns I had left in it, beſides Jewels and Precious Stones. Here I began to conſider what had paſſed, and to clear my ſelf of all fear, ſince my ill Dream was now come, which you may read in the Twentieth Chapter. The Dove was the Lady, the Bird that courted her, was my ſelf. He ſeemed to riſe out of the Ground without his Feathers, that repreſented my nakedneſs when I came out of the Privy. Other Fowls cloathed him, ſuch were the Thieves that lent me their Garments. He came out of the Hole that the Crow had pricked in the Church-yard; that is, by the means of my Companions, whoſe deeds are the deeds of darkneſs, and repreſent the colour of the Crow, I was freed from all fear of Death,

Death, and came flying out with a Bell; that is, with my Booty, rejoycing at his good fortune, and the Morning Light; and that was the time we returned from our Robbery, to our Club, and were so merry concerning our good success.

Thus many times by Dreams, are we forewarned of the future according to the Poets,

Somnia pondus habent. Ovid.

Ἄναρ ἐκ δίος ὄξι. Hom.

And the French Poet, the Famous *Ronsard*, of whom it is said, *Gallia Ronsardo quod Græcia debet* Homero, is of the same opinion.

Des Dieux çà bas viennent certains les songes,
Et Dieu n'est pas artisan des mesonges.

Those Dreams the Gods us send, have sure event,
For they to couzenage never give consent.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXII.

He entereth into the Society of Theeves at Eſtampes. *Their manner of life.*

I Had both Money and Jewels, Riches enough, one would have thought, to keep any Man from extravagancy, and the abominable crime of being a Theif. But alas, it was as hard for me to live ſoberly, and out of action, as it was for the prudenteſt of Men to do otherwiſe. For the crooked Branch can ſcarce be made ſtraight, no more then the ſtraight one crooked, and

Quo ſemel eſt imbuta recens ſervabit Odorem Teſta diu.

Thus though I wanted for nothing, I entered my ſelf into the *Society of Thieves*, a thing few would embrace, though driven to it by neceſſity. I bought me a Horſe, the beſt I could get; Piſtols, Boots, and all the other Accoutrements of War; and at the hour appointed, which was Eight of the Clock that Evening, we all met. Then did I underſtand all the Ceremonies of the Trade. Firſt, I was kindly

welcomed by all, and after ſome ſhort diſcourſe, and that we had drunken freely of the beſt Wines, I ſwore to theſe Articles.

1. *TO obey the Captains commands in all things.*

2. *To be faithful to the reſt in all Deſigns and Attempts.*

3. *To be always preſent at the Meetings, that the Captain ſhould appoint, either in that, or in any other place, without his leave to do the contrary.*

4. *To be ready at all hours, by Day and by Night upon Call.*

5. *Never to deſert the Company to the laſt breath.*

6. *Never to flie from an equal number of Adverſaries.*

7. *To withhold nothing privately of a Booty taken.*

8. *To help one another, whether Impriſoned, or in any other Diſtreſs.*

9. *Never to leave their Friends Body, whether Wounded or Dead, in the Enemies power.*

10. *To confeſs nothing of the reſt, though apprehended and put to the Rack.*

11. *That*

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11. That if enriched by these means, I desired to leave the Society, I should leave my accoutrements likewise, as Horse, Boots, and Pistols to the Captain, and never confess of the rest.

12. That in case any person of the company did otherwise, I would at all opportunities, whether by my self or with any of my companions, punish him with present death.

After I had sworn to these twelve Articles, they made me understand the rest of their Orders. That the Horsemen took the Office of the Captain upon them, every one for a moneths space in their Order. He had a trebble share, two parts as he was a Horseman and had his Beast to feed, and a third part which he should lay out in Wine and Meat for the use of the company, and give an account of it publickly before the rest at the months end.

During the time his Office lasted, he went out no oftner then he pleased, but rather commanded the rest then accompanied them, and in case he neglected to prepare them Wine and Meat ready against their return, he lost all his part in that nights booty. The Horsemen had a dou-

ble part becauſe of their Beaſt, and in caſe any one were wounded and could not be preſent, nor officiate, he had his portion nevertheleſs, and the next officiated for him. The Footman had but a ſingle ſhare, as well becauſe he had no Beaſt to maintain, as that he was new come and had undergone leaſt danger of his life; and amongſt them every night one in his turn ſtay'd up to let in the reſt, either at the back or fore-door, as need required, that when they came all things might be in readineſs for their reception, and if purſued they might be houſed in an inſtant.

This Houſe had been bought out-right on the publick Charge formerly and ſo was another at *Orleans*, where in time of danger we might be ſheltred: and every moneth at our Captains appointment two of our company kept it by turns, one Horſeman and another Footman, they had their ſhares as well as the reſt, and their buſineſs was onely to find out booties, to give intelligence of paſſengers to the reſt, and keep a clear correſpondence from Town to City; we had half-way-houſes likewiſe, though not ſo large as theſe, and had a

Bill

Bill ready always to put on any of their doors in caſe they were to be ſearcht on any Suſpition, and their Furniture was ſo ſmall, that it was impoſſible any one could gueſs it a ſhelter for ſo many as we were in company upon the Roads. Nevertheleſs we had in each a large Vault under the ground, and a door to it that was not eaſily diſcernable; here in the greateſt danger that could be, we might ſecurely drink our Wine, that was ſo much the better by how much it was kept the cooler; here could we bury a dead friends body with the greateſt ſecreſie, and then waſh down the ſorrow: to which purpoſe and to take away all fear of death, we had a Cup made out of a dead mans Scull, that at every meeting went round the Table. Not unlike the old Ægyptian cuſtom that the Græcian Hiſtorian *Herodotus* mentioneth: *How that at their greateſt Feaſts, and when there was greateſt cauſe of mirth, a* Skeleton *was brought round the Table, and the bearer cry'd, Drink and be merry, for you ſee what you muſt be.*

Theſe were the Ceremonies of the Society, and the Myſteries of our Iniquity;

'twould be tedious to relate the reſt, being of ſmaller moment and inconſiderable: I ſhall add therefore but two or three lines more, and then proceed to my firſt adventure.

Since all that breath are ſubject to the pow'r
Of death, and all expect the fatal hour,
What matter is't whither early or late
I die, ſince I am ſure to bend to fate.
And this I know, of all the lives that be,
The Thieve's the beſt, none lives ſo merrily.
Perhaps you'll ſay we're true and honeſt men,
And in our calling ſo are we, what then?
Nay this by my experience I find,
That Thieves of all men bear the trueſt mind.
You Tradeſmen fall upon and eat each other,
But we live friends as Brother doth to Brother.

CHAP.

*RC65.A100.672f

CHAP. XXIII.

His first adventure upon the Road after he was entered in the Society of Thieves at Estampes, *one of his companions is wounded, but at length they come off with victory.*

WE were ordered by our Captain to be ready at 4 of the Clock the next morning, three betwixt *Estampes* and *Angerville*, and the like number between *Angerville* and *Orleans*, for *Angerville* is about six Leagues distant from *Estampes*, and standeth in the middle between it and *Orleans*. For our Captain was advised by our Scouts at *Orleans*, that a Gentleman set forth thence towards *Paris* betimes that morning with a great sum of Money; but because I was newly come and knew not well the Roads, was allotted that I should be with two it more between *Estampes* and *Angerville*, and three of our best experienced Blades should lie next *Orleans*, according to this Order we went to our several stations, but they that lay next *Orleans* missed of their boo-

ty, for the Gentleman had taken a private road. The morning was fair and clear, and ſeveral companies of paſſengers went by unmoleſted, till at length the coaſt was clear, and there appeared a Gentleman onely, and his Man; we knew not but this might be the man, and therefore changed our intention of going in equal number, and reſolved all three to ſet upon him: The Gentleman perceiving three well mounted to ride towards him, and that it were a ſhame to fly from us upon ſuſpition onely, came manfully towards us, ſpeaking ſomething to his Man, whether to give him notice of his ſuſpition, I know not, or to incourage him if any danger ſhould befal. But ſo it fell out, that as ſoon as we met and put them to a ſtand, the Gentleman drew forth a Piſtol ready charged and cock'd, and fired it at us, the Bullet fell low and wounded one of my companions in the Thigh, which gave us no time to talk longer; ſo I cloſed in to prevent further miſchief, and as he drew forth the other Piſtol, I gave him ſuch a weighty blow upon his Shoulder with my Sword, that by weakening his Muſcles I fruſtra-

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ted his intentions, and forced him to leave it in its Case for me, then I drew it, whilſt another laid hold on the Man and ſecured the Cloak-bag. Sir, ſaid I, if your Life be dearer to you then your Money (and certainly though Money may, yet Life can never be recovered) preſume not to reſiſt any longer to your own deſtruction. He ſeemed extremely angred at theſe words, and by his looks plainly ſhewed he had rather part with his Blood then his Money, had not the wound in his right arm prevented him to make uſe of his ſword. If I die, ſaid he, I ſhall be cured both of this wound, and delivered from all the other evils that are incident to Humane Nature; but to lie wounded in a ſtrange place without Friends and Money, is a miſery far exceeding the pains and pangs of death. You ſhall find, ſaid I (for I had compaſſion on his miſery, and was not yet hardned in the Trade) Friends and Money where you expect none, and thereupon out of his own Cloak-bag I gave him ſix Piſtols, and out of my pocket a Plaiſter (for we were always furniſhed with them for our own uſe.)

Sense

Sanus Achillea remeavit Telephus haſta.

So *Achilles* healed *Telephus* with the ſame weapon that wounded him, and thus we left him, and came off with our booty, which amounted to the value of One hundred and threeſcore pounds, for the Man was a Jeweller at *Orleans*, and was going to *Paris* to buy Rings and Precious Stones. This good ſucceſs gave all our company leiſure for two or three days to reſt themſelves; and after we had made merry and divided the ſpoil, every one praiſing my Noble behaviour in the adventure; we drunk our Captains health round in our Scull, and ſo were diſmiſſed for two days.

CHAP.

*EC65.A100.672f

CHAP. XXIV.

He goes to Maſs, where he falls in love with a young Lady. His ſubtil devices to obtain her.

THe next day was the Feſtival of S. *James*, and we went to Maſs, as the Poet ſays,

Πανσυδίη δ' ἔσπευδον ἐς Ἱερὸν ἦμαρ ἱκέσθαι,
Οὐδὲ περικτιόνων τις ἐλείπετο τῆμος ἑορτῆς.
Οὐδέ τις ἠϊθέων φιλοπάρθενος. ἦ γὰρ ἐκεῖνοι
Ἄεν ὁμαρτήσαντες ὅπῃ φάτις ἔστιν ἑορτῆς,
Οὐ πόσον ἀθανάτων ἀγέμεν σπεύδουσι θυηλάς,
Ὅσσον ἀγειρομένων διὰ κάλλεα παρθενικάων.

The Neighbors all made haſte to come away,
And amorous youths flock'd to this Holy Day.
Th'are not ſo ſwift to ſerve a Deity,
As to adore their Miſtreſs's they be:

I viewed more Faces then I told Beads, out of Ceremony; and though I was then in the Church, and there were objects enough to have employed my mind otherwiſe, yet when I ſaw the Beauty I had

had chosen, I could not but say in my self,

Οὐκ ἂν ἐγὼ κατ' ὄλυμπον ἐφιμείρω θεὸς εἶναι,
Ἡμετέρην πρᾶκοιτιν ἔχων ἐνὶ δώμασιν Αὐτήν.

I would not change, if happy in my Love,
My state with the Olympus-*shaker* Jove.

The great esteem I had already for her, grew greater and greater, and every action of hers seemed in my eyes a new perfection; that after Mass, I could not but look after her, nay, unknown to my self which way I went, my feet carried me to her door; the envious Walls parted us.

Invide dicebam paries, quid amantibus obstas?

And I was forced to return without speaking to her, but not without thinking of her: For these hinderances set me the more on fire.

Sic ego torrentem, qua nil obstabat eunti,
Lenius, & modico strepitu decurrere vidi:
At quacunque trabes, obstructaque saxa jacebant,
Spumeus & fervens & ab obice savior ibat.

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A thouſand thoughts came in to my Head, but they thruſt ſo faſt, one upon the other, that they were all imperfect. Sometimes I thought to try, if I could take a Lodging in the Houſe, but it was a private family, and admitted none. Sometimes to court her under the name of a Merchant; but I was not well skilled in Traffick, in Navigation, or in the Situation and Commodities of Countreys, and might ſoon be found out to be an Impoſture. Then again, ſhe had many Suters already, and ſhe was in a Guardians hands that deprived her of Liberty, ſince ſo many deſired a ſhare in her. At laſt I enquired what I could of her Friends, her Eſtate, and Condition, amongſt the Neighborhood, and found ſhe was a rich Citizens Daughter of *Paris*, and lived there with her Uncle, at his Countrey-houſe, who hindred her from the preſence of her lovers, though ſhe favored many. That ſhe was a Gentlewoman extreamly civil to all that came to her, and that hated to be confined to her Uncles houſe, but was forced to it by the commands of her Friends, that would otherwiſe diſ-inherite her, being their onely Child.

Having

Having gained this intelligence, but above all, that her Uncle was a Lawyer, I went as gallant as my Induſtry could make me, to deſire his advice in a Caſe, I pretended I had at *Paris*. It was then very early in the morning, and the old Man was not up, nor the Lady, but only a youth that waited on them, who underſtanding my buſineſs, and thinking by my outward appearance, I was ſome perſon of quality, brought me in to a fair Parlor, deſiring me to ſtay till he acquainted his Maſter. Here in the mean time I viewed ſeveral pieces of great rarity, amongſt the reſt, there was one Picture that I was highly taken with: The ſubject was a Pedler, ſuppoſed to be ſleeping under a large Tree, in a Countrey full of Monkeys, with his Packet by him. The Monkeys that came from every part to ſee their new gueſt, were painted in the pleaſanteſt poſtures imaginable; ſome were peeping under his Hat to ſee his Face, ſome opening his Codpiece, ſome untying his Shooes, ſome harkening to the noiſe he made in his Throat, being ſoundly aſleep and weary; but an innumerable company were gotten about his Packet,

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Packet, and had opened it. Every one was running away with ſome thing, ſome drew Ribbons after them of one colour, ſome of another; ſome took Pins, ſome Thred, ſome Laces, ſome rode on Hobby-horſes; ſome adorned the Trees with theſe varieties of colours, others drew on Gloves; and amongſt the reſt, one that had drawn on a Pair of Gloves upon his Fore-feet in a Tree, and then was pulling out ſome Ribbond, ſo intangled himſelf therein, that he fell from the Boughs a good diſtance, and hung by the Ribbond, making ſtrange geſtures with his Face, and his Feet.

In ſhort, there was nothing wanting from this piece that Invention could add, to make it more perfect; many others I ſaw, the effects of an admirable ingenuity, till the youth returned, and told me, his Maſter was riſing, if I pleaſed to have patience a little longer. It was not long after before he came, and after ſome ſhort diſcourſe, I clapped Four Piſtols into his hands, deſiring his beſt advice in the matter I ſhould acquaint him with this old and covetous mind, was ſomething refreſhed with the fee, and chafed it ſelf ſo far, as

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to call for a Bottle of Wine for our Mornings draught. So we ſate down, and I related my matter thus.

I have, ſaid I, loved a young Lady long, and ſhe hath been pleaſed to favor me with the like kindneſs, and there is now nothing wanting to compleat our felicity, but the will of her Parents; this we dare not ask, by reaſon of the inequality of our fortunes: For though my Father was a Merchant, and hath left me an eſtate ſufficient, yet ſhe being onely Child, is likely to have as much, as was divided between me and eight more Brothers and Siſters. Nevertheleſs we have reſolved, Whether her friends frown or not, ſince I have Means enough to maintain her, to be married privately, hoping, that time and the impoſſibility of ſeparating us after marriage, will by degrees reconcile us to her friends.

Now Sir, this is the matter wherein I deſire your ſecrecy and counſel; for I am come from *Paris* hither to you for this purpoſe onely, being unwilling that the leaſt fame of this ſhould be ſpred, till ſuch time all things are conſummated according to our deſires; and if you are pleaſed

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to help me with your advice, you shall find me as thankful, as you are obliging in all things.

The Old Man gave good attention to my relation, but though he were able to have satisfied me then with an answer, yet for the desire he had to another fee, deferred the matter till another time. It is a hard matter, said he, to determine what is best to be done in such a case, whereon depends a mans perpetual welfare; for it must of necessity be a great trouble to you, as long as you shall live, if her friends respect her not, notwithstanding your Means may be sufficient to maintain you. We will therefore defer it for two or three days (Δεύτεραι φροντίδες σοφότεραι) till I have considered the inconveniencies that may arise on this side, and the conveniencies on that, and gathered the conclusion from both what is best to be done. So I took my leave of him for that time, and returned to expect our Captains commands.

CHAP. XXV.

He robs a young Gallant upon the Road, with two other pleaſant adventures of his companions that ſame day.

AT the appointed time all our Companions met, but ſince there was no intelligence given of any particular Booty, and the day was likely to be clear and fair; beſtow your time, Gentlemen, ſaid our Captain, according to your own pleaſure to morrow, when and where you pleaſe. For by accident it oft falls out, that by wandring to and fro, we find out Pearls or Rings, or Money, and ſuch like things, which our greateſt care and ſtudy could never conduct us to. Remember onely to behave your ſelves like men, and Fortune crown your Labours with Succeſs; ſo we parted, intending the next morning to ſet out according to our own pleaſures ſeverally; but becauſe I was not well skill'd in the Roads, our Captain honoured me with his Company, whom I perceived to be the moſt ſubtil and valiant

liant amongſt the reſt: ſo we went out that night and lay in an Inn at *La Beauſs*, where we ſaw moſt paſſengers goe in; amongſt the reſt we ſaw there a young Gallant that ſeemed to command more in the place, though he was a ſtranger to it, then the Maſter himſelf, all his words were full of vain boaſtings and Pride that argued onely, that he was either of little Wit or Courage that ſpoke them, and had been too much indulged in his Youth. So we took all occaſions to ſpeak to him, and complying with his humour, we gained ſo far upon him as to have his company at Supper, pretending we were to goe the ſame way that he did, for we had got out of him that he was to goe to *Orleans* to buy Wines: we ſupped in the Chamber wherein he was to lie, and thither he had brought up a fair Caſe of Piſtols from his Saddle: I took not much notice of them before him, though indeed they were very rich and of very good work, leſt he might ſuſpect any thing: but when he was gone out of the Chamber, with a Worme that I had in my pocket, I drew out both the Bullets, and ſo left them in the place

where he had put them. My companion was hugely pleaſed with this device, and ſaid, I deſerved rather to be Captain then himſelf, and that he would willingly be led by ſuch a Projector.

Perhaps, ſaid I——but he came in and diſturbed our diſcourſe, ſo we fell to our Supper, and being he was a mad Gallant, our *Debonaire* humours ſuted to his ſo well, that we ſpent the moſt part of the night in Merriment; and amongſt the reſt of our diſcourſes, ſometimes I talkt of our journey as if I were a ſtranger to the place, and that having a ſmall charge of Money about me, yet more then I was willing to loſe, I ſhould be extremely glad of his company the next morning: he could not contain his vain boaſtings at theſe words, but I have Piſtols for the Rogues, ſaid he; they ſhall find me better prepared then formerly they did when I was robbed between *Angerville* and *Orleans*, and yet then for ten Piſtols the Rogues took from me, I think they received as many cuts: nay, I would gladly meet with two or three of them now to revenge my ſelf of the injury they did me then. Our Captain could not but laugh

at

at his expreſſions, for as he told me afterwards, he was one that took the ten Piſtols from him, and that never man delivered up and parted with his Money more eaſily then he: do you laugh, ſaid he, to our Captain becauſe the Rogues paid ſo dear for the ſmall booty they obtained? truly I did laugh my ſelf when I ſaw four men fly wounded from me, as ſo many Mice would have done from a Cat, but what would you ſay when you ſhall hear hereafter that I have ſlain ſome of theſe Rogues, wounded others, proſecuted the reſt, and cleared the Roads of the whole gang? Truly ſaid I, you ſhall much oblige *France* in ſo doing, and deſerve both the general Praiſe and the publick Reward of this whole Countrey; and to ſhew how much this generous action of yours meriteth of all honeſt men; I would willingly venture my life with yours in taking of them, that are ſo great a plague, and like ſo many thorns in the feet of the Traveller. Well ſaid he, with his tongue running before his Wit, we will goe on purpoſe either behind the Company, or in ſome by-Roads to meet theſe Rogues: this extravagant and fooliſh diſcourſe of

his afforded us too much paſtime all that night.

The next morning as ſoon as the Sun ſent out his firſt Rays, we prepared our ſelves for our journey, ſetting out by our ſelves, then did I deſire the Captain to let us two goe before, halfe a League, for I had a deſire to try his valour by my ſelf; he readily conſented to it, and pretending he waited for ſomething, ſtay'd behind, but with intention to come after us the ſame way: ſo we jogged on lovingly together for a good ſpace, till finding my opportunity. Sir, ſaid I, you have ſpoken ſo much ill of thoſe Gentlemen who uſe the Roads, that I am ſure you doe truly hate them, and I could now wiſh we might meet ſome of them, to puniſh their inſolencies, for though we are but two yet I am glad of it, for the other perſon you ſaw with me I met with by chance, and doe not know but he is of thoſe Rogues that infeſt theſe Roads, and might have brought us into extreme danger. Then did he begin afreſh to boaſt, as if he deſired nothing more then that they would come: nay, had his Words been as pernitious as the

Wounds

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Wounds he talked of, he had already ſlain all the Robbers in the World.

I thought there never could be ſuch another,
But now I find Don Quixote *had a Brother.*
He ſpake Gigantick words at ſuch a rate,
As though the wind had turn'd his windmil-
pate.

Well, ſaid I, to give him a little breath, I cannot propheſie, but if Thieves ſhould come, would you not like the Man in the Fable that call'd for death, make an excuſe when he came; Yes, ſaid he, I would make an excuſe in defiance of him with my weapon and not my tongue, for I am not deſirous to live longer then worthy of life, nor ſo afraid of death, as not to dare to look danger in the face: then here it is, ſaid I, drawing my ſword, and unleſs thou deliver up all thy Money, and renounce what ever thou haſt ſaid againſt the Lords of the Roads, thy life ſhall pay for the injurious ſpeeches thou haſt pronounced againſt them: the ſight of the ſword calmed his bluſtering words, and he began to ſay in milder terms, now I have gotten ſuch a companion, I am

able to ſubdue a multitude; that is not the anſwer, ſaid I, that is expected from you; will you or no deliver your Money and renounce all you have ſaid? ah brave companion, ſaid he, we two need fear no Thieves, that are both ſo well prepared and ſo reſolute. Your delay is troubleſome ſaid I, and ſince my words avail nothing with you, give up your Money to this; ſo I cut him over the pate, and was ready to have diſcharged another blow upon his Shoulder; this was enough to have admoniſhed any rational man of the danger he was in: you act the Thief too raſhly, ſaid he; and I remember I have ſeen in ſuch a Play, him that acted a Rival, really to have wounded his adverſary, and then he began to tell me the whole ſubſtance of the Play. I was much pleaſed at this humour above all the reſt, till ſuch time I had found ſport enough with his relation. But to return to my purpoſe, come come, ſaid I, deliver your Money, and gave my Gallant a good ſlaſh over the Shoulder, it was driven ſo home that the ſmart made him ſenſible of the truth that I was in earneſt. I hope, Sir, ſaid he, I have given you no cauſe to be angry

#RC65.A100.672t

gry with me, but if you are not well pleaſed in that I have ſpoken too largely againſt the Lords of the Road, that ſhall cauſe no difference between us, and as it began in an Inn, ſo it ſhall end at the next Town we come in a glaſs of Wine: I ſhall willingly renounce what I have ſaid rather then looſe your good company. Then ſaid I, one part of the buſineſs you have already diſpatched, the other is as eaſie, and I know you are as liberal as valiant, and you will not refuſe to part with a little Money; therefore deliver it: You give me cauſe ſaid he, to ſuſpect you are one of them whoſe part you take, I proteſt unleſs you be more civil, this Piſtol, (clapping his hand on the Caſe) ſhall requite you the two blows you have given me. I was now weary with his folly and delays, and began to charge him with ſuch blows on his Shoulders, Arms, and Thighs (for I was unwilling to kill the poor fool) that the Gentleman began to ſet Spurs to his Horſe, not that he had hope of eſcape, for he ſaw my Horſe was better then his, but out of fear, and the deſire he had to be as far from me as he might poſſibly;

but

But I followed him too close to let him run far; and when he could flie no farther, like the bruiſed Worm he turned, though to but little purpoſe; and drawing forth one of his Piſtols, he diſcharged the Powder onely, for I had before drawn out the Bullet; but ſeeing there was no harm done to me, and terrified with the death I threatned, he delivered to me about Fifty Crowns of Money: So I left him and returned towards the place whence I came, then I met our Captain, for purpoſely he kept a good diſtance from us, and told him all that had hapned. He was ſo mightily pleaſed with the adventure, that he reſolved to follow him, and have ſome diſcourſe with him, as a perſon ignorant of all that had hapned.

He ſoon overtook him, by reaſon of the goodneſs of his Horſe: Good God, Sir, ſaid he to him, what is befaln your Companion, I met him poſting back ſo faſt! Hang him, ſaid he (for that will be his end) he is a Rogue, and offered me violence, and would have robbed me; but I have ſent him away with a Bullet in his Breech, and I ſuppoſe that makes him poſt back ſo faſt, to get remedy for his

*EC65.A100.672f

his wound. I wiſh he had ſtaid a little longer, then might the other Bullet have cleared this Road of one Lord, for ſo he termed himſelf.

Here our Captain could not but laugh, (for he was indeed by Birth a Lord, though Fortune had taken away all his Titles, except that of the Road;) but ſaid he, ſhould the reſolute Man have taken my Purſe, I am not ſo fooliſh as to carry all Money where Thieves may find it. Perhaps he might have taken my Silver, yet firſt he muſt have reduced me to that weakneſs, that I could not make reſiſtance. Put the caſe, I ſay, he had taken my Silver, I have Gold in a better place. Have you ſo, ſaid our Captain, Can there be any place which theſe Rogues leave unſearched about a Man? Yes replied he, I will tell you what place, between the Soals of your Boots. I have carried Gold ſeveral times undiſcovered there. Yes, but ſaid our Captain, do you think your ſelf, that if any of the Thieves had ſeen it, they would not have taken it? Aſſuredly, ſaid he, when they had wounded me, ſo that I could make no reſiſtance; for ſince they are a ſort of people that live

live like Kites by Rapine; though their common food be courſe, and they are accuſtomed to it; yet if they ſee a Chicken in their way, they muſt have a ſnatch at it.

Now haſt thou ſpoken truth, ſaid our Captain, of the Lords of the Road, they were very fooliſh indeed, if they did let ſlip any ſuch Booty, when the owner himſelf gives them intelligence of it; and therefore you muſt part with ſome of your Gold. Yes indeed, ſaid he, the Wine is as dear at *Orleans*, as it is good; and I fear I ſhall have very little left before I have made my Market there. I can ſave you the trouble, ſaid our Captain, of going to *Orleans*, I am a Wine Merchant: How much Money have you to beſtow, for I have Wines of ſeveral Prizes? The value, ſaid he, of an Hundred Crowns; then you ſhall have a taſte, ſaid our Captain, of my beſt Wine; and thereupon gave him a cut with his Sword, ſo vehemently, that the Blood guſhed out. See, there is the Wine, ſaid he, and if you deliver not all your Gold, I ſhall broach the Veſſel in a thouſand places more.

The

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The poor gallant having found by experience before, that it was in vain to flie, drew forth the other Piſtol and diſcharged it with the ſame effect, for the Bullet was drawn out: But our Captain delivered his blows ſo thick upon him, that the fear he had of death, made him ſoon unrip the Soals of his Boots, and render his Gold. Our Captain in compaſſion of his folly, ſeeing him to be a perſon that could not any ways ſhift for himſelf, gave him ſomething back, and ſo left him. Then we met at our Club, where every one was much delighted with the adventure, nay, every one almoſt brought in ſome ſmall booty that day, and amongſt the reſt, one of our Footmen walking up and down the Town, found a little Packet of Letters, which amongſt the other Booties were laid upon the Table; and after the Money was divided, they were read to this purpoſe.

Mr. *Monſieur,*

THe ſervice you have been pleaſed to do me in many Important Affairs heretofore, makes me preſume once more to deſire your help and aſſiſtance in gaining

Madam

Madam Nourice; *for ſince ſhe will not be favorable to my love, I am reſolved to take her by force: To the effecting of which, here is a fair opportunity offereth it ſelf. Her Father hath ſent for her to* Paris, *and ſhe goes on Horsback from her Uncles Houſe next Tueſday, I know her retinue will be ſmall and weak, and we ſhall eaſily carry her away. Therefore, if you do provide your ſelf with a Horſe, and are ready for the attempt that Morning of the appointed day, you make me*

Your

Perpetual Friend

and Servant

J. Loret.

This they threw by, but I took it up, and put it into my Pocket; for I knew the Perſon that was to be forced, could be no other then the Lady I deſired to ſerve

Ad quam per centum Scyllas, *per Mille* Charybdes
Tranarem laturus opem:

For

RC65.A100.672r

For

Quiſquis amat, ſervit, ſequitur captivus amatam
Fert domita cervice jugum, fert verbera tergo
Dulcia, fert ſtimulos, trahit & bovis inſtar aratrum.

ſays the Poet. There was nothing difficult that I would not attempt for her ſake, Love had made me ſo bold; yet I concealed my Paſſion as much as poſſibly I could in their preſence, till ſuch time the Club broke up, and we were all diſmiſsed.

CHAP. XXVI.

By a ſubtil deviſe he gaineth the Uncles conſent to marry his Neece.

NOw had I time to viſit the old Lawyer again, and to proceed in my Intentions; and ſince the time was ſo ſhort before ſhe went to *Paris*, I went the very next day to deſire her Uncles anſwer

to

to my caſe. He was very glad at my arrival, and that I might prevail the better upon him, I gave him the other fee, this produced another Bottle of Wine; but what was far beyond my expectation, the Lady her ſelf brought it in, for the man was out of the Houſe. Then did I really think ſome Goddeſs was preſenting a Cup of *Nectar* to me, and I was ſo much ſurprized with her ſight, that I had almoſt miſſed the taking of the Glaſs: But recovering my ſelf before the old Man could take notice (though her eye was ſo quick as to perceive ſomething I thought, and to bluſh) I drank to the Lady; ſhe pledged, as Modeſty uſeth by kiſſing the Glaſs, and left us. Then I began to put the old Man in mind of my Cauſe, deſiring his counſel in the matter: I ſee, ſaid he, but one way to the effecting your deſire, that is, by marrying her as ſoon as poſſible, privately; and when you have done that, fear not, but I ſhall find out means to reconcile you both to her Friends. I perceived he was ſtill deſirous I ſhould come again to him, and told me no more then what I knew before. Nevertheleſs I made anſwer, I approved of his counſel very well,

well, but thought it would be a difficult thing to find a Prieſt that would marry us ſo privately, ſince, for my part I knew none. You ſhall not need to take much care for that, ſaid he, there is a friend of mine at *la Beauſs* that is come thither lately from *Paris* to ſee his Lands, and he ſhall marry you. In this, ſaid I, you oblige me beyond meaſure; and if all things ſucceed well, you ſhall be well requited for your prudent advice. There remains onely, that you would write me a ſmall Note to that Holy Man of your acquaintance, that we are a couple of your Friends that may be lawfully married, and the like; ſo ſhall the matter be brought to paſs eaſily, without trouble or ſuſpition: And ſince I muſt trouble you to write your ſelf, pray accept of this Pair of Gloves (putting two Piſtols more in his hand) not as the reward, but a ſmall acknowledgment of your favor.

Thus induced by my words and money to favor my deſign, he write me a Letter to the Prieſt, and after another Glaſs of Wine or two, I took my leave of him.

CHAP. XXVII.

He goes to Orleans *with the Captain of the Rogues; the nature of the place, and what befel them there.*

OUr Captain by this time had ſummoned us all to appear at the accuſtomed rendezvous, and after ſome orders given, he told the company he had a mind to go to *Orleans*, as well to ſee our Houſe there, as to ſhow me the Roads and the City, hoping, notwithſtanding, that we might meet ſome prize in the way. So the reſt were left to their own diſpoſing, and we ſet forward in our journey. *Orleans* is a place that hath a very liberal portion of all Fruits, but eſpecially of Grapes, inſomuch, that *Andre du Cheſne* calleth it the prime Cellar of *Paris*, *Eſt une pars*, ſaith he, *ſi heureuſe & ſi ſecunde ſur tout in vins quon la peut dice l'unde premiers celiers de* Paris. And he hath not ſaid amiſs of it, for the Vines wherein he maketh it to be ſo happy, deſerve no leſs commendation then he hath given them, as yielding the beſt Wines in all the Kingdom.

Here

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Here is an Universſity, and a Seat of Juſtice; for this Town is one of the *Sieges Preſidiaux*, Seats of Juſtice: But that which rendreth the City extreamly pleaſant is, Its ſituation in reſpect of the Air, and the Walks about it; one being very pleaſant under a Rank of Palm-trees; the ſecond which is near the Bridge, hath the Water running by it on both ſides; the third on the Eaſt-ſide of the City, is the *Palle Malle*. Here in the Evening come the Ladies of Pleaſure, nor doth any Monſieur walk here ſingle, but he quickly finds a mate. *Women and Wine*, ſaith the Poet, *are parallel*; and ſince the Wine was ſo good, my Companion perſwaded me to taſte the Women. If therefore there were found more Children that year in the Town then Fathers, they were beholding to us for two of them. There is yet another Walk *l'Eſtappe*, principally frequented with Merchants: This we often viſited, to ſee if we could find out any thing to our purpoſe; we inquired after many ſtrange perſons, and the price of ſeveral Commodities: And amongſt other news, this ſtory was then hot in the mouth of the People.

A Pleaſant Story of two Merchants.

THere were two French Merchants in *Italy*, Buying or Selling their Commodities, who having found the lightneſs of ſome of the *Italian* Dames fell into diſcourſe of their Wives, each one commending and extolling the Chaſtity of his own: Upon this, one of them who was both ſubtil, and a proper man withal, Friend, ſaid he, I would wage willingly with any Man Five hundred Crowns, that I could prevail againſt the chaſteſt Woman upon Earth. It is done replied the other, before theſe Gentlemen, Five hundred Crowns ſhall be the Wager; and ſo many I will lay; That you ſeduce not my Wife by any means, to comply with your unlawful deſires.

The Wager was laid, and not long after the Merchant poſted to *France*, there by the means of an old Woman his friend, that dwelt with the other Merchants Wife, he got a Cheſt of his to be kept in the Ladies Chamber for a day or two; in this he incloſed himſelf, and in the night, when the Moon ſhone, and the Lady was faſt

*EC65.A100.672f

faſt aſleep, he came out of his Cheſt and viewed all the Pictures, the Bed, and all the furniture of the Room; but finding nothing he could carry away, and fearing theſe were not manifeſt tokens enough, he went to the Bed ſide. The Weather was hot, and the Curtains were not very cloſe, beſide the Lady lay with her Breſt naked out of the Bed, ſo that he could eaſily perceive by the light of the Moon, that ſhe had a Mold beneath her Right Breſt, and ſome few ſmall Hairs upon it. Then did he return to his Cheſt, and the next day was carried out of the Houſe in it undiſcovered by all. And not long after went back to *Spain*, and having called the ſame company that were witneſſes to the Wager, he related how he had enjoyed her, in ſuch a Bed, ſuch a Room adorned with ſuch Pictures, ſuch Hangings, ſuch Furniture; but above all, That ſhe had a Mold under her Right Breſt, with ſome Hairs upon it. The other convinced by ſo many manifeſt tokens, was forced to pay the Wager. But incenſed by the loſs of his Money, by his diſgrace, and the infidelity of his Wife, he went immediately to *Paris*, to a Neighboring Vil-

lage, and thither he ſent for his Wives man, that had always proved very faithful unto him, and ſwearing him to Secrecy; You muſt, ſaid he, carry out your Miſtreſs to walk, or the like, into the Woods, and there ſlay her. I ſhall leave thee ſole Heir of all my Eſtate for it, and whileſt I live, thou ſhalt ſhare with me; for ſhe is the wickedeſt Woman in the World.

This great reward ſpurred on the youth, who was of poor parentage, to the murder. And not long after walking out with his Miſtreſs in the Fields. Miſtreſs, ſaid he, you ought now to prepare your ſelf for the other world, for my Maſter hath this day appointed me to take away your life, for the great wickedneſs you have committed, againſt him. Good *James*, ſaid ſhe (for ſo was the Mans name) you know I never offended him in any thing, and how lovingly we parted; nor can this ariſe, but upon ſome miſtake; which when diſcovered, will bring both of you to the extreamity of torture. Forbear therefore, and ſpare my life; and if your Maſter have by any threats or promiſe of reward, conſtrained you to act ſuch wickedneſs; and that he hath reſolved, he will ſee my face

no

no more, desist but till to morrow, and give me some of thy old Cloaths, so will I leave *France*; and thou shalt tell thy Master, That thou hast killed me, and the Woolfs have eaten me. The youth moved with her words and tears, and afraid to stain his hands with her Blood, consented to what she said. Then told his Master he had slain her, received his reward, and then travelled from *Paris* with him.

Here they accidentally met with the other Merchant at *Orleans*, the Wife was there likewise in Mans Cloaths, and as a stranger accuseth her Husband of Murder, he accuseth the other of Adultery. But at length it was concluded by the Law, the Husband should be freed and agree with his Wife that had been so faithful; the other onely suffered death, that by his deceit had been the cause of all the evil.

We spent two days at *Orleans* thus amongst the Merchants, but could gain no intelligence of any that was to go our way. Nevertheless, I earnestly intreated our Captain to return; so that he easily

perceived there was ſome extraordinary occaſion that called me back. And as we were very familiar with one another, our Humors and our Years being the ſame. There is ſomething, ſaid he you deſign, you are unwilling I ſhould know; and I am very ſorry, ſince we are not onely of the ſame Profeſſion, but Friends and Companions, that I may not be likewiſe a partaker of your cares. You have judged right, anſwered I, but though I have no reaſon to ſuſpect any infidelity in any Man, much leſs in you, that I eſteem and find faithful above all men; nevertheleſs I ſhall oblige you, before I tell you my concerns, by ſwearing my ſelf your perpetual Friend; that you will be the like to me, and aſſiſt me in my preſent occaſions, as I promiſe to aſſiſt you to my laſt breath in all your affairs. Then embracing me, Let theſe Arms, ſaid he, periſh, when they deny what they can give to my Friend. And in this manner did we two tye an inviolable knot of Friendſhip.

Afterwards I related all that had paſſed between me, and the Lady, and her Uncle, and concerning the Letters that one

of

of our men had found, of my Rivals Intentions; and how I intended to take occaſion thence to ſerve her, to reſcue her from thoſe Villains, and thence conduct her to the Prieſts houſe, which her Uncle had ſent me to; and ſhowing her his conſent under his own hand, to marry her. My Companion was highly aſtoniſhed at the contrivance of the Plot, and in diſcourſing concerning it, we ſpent the beſt part of our journey, till we were come within a League of *Eſtampes*. It was then duskiſh, and we overtook a Gentlewoman on foot upon the Road, whom by the little light we had, we could eaſily perceive to be a perſon of no mean quality. Then conſidering the way ſhe had to go, and pittying her nature, I proffered her the uſe of my Horſe, ſhe accepted of my proffer with thanks, and promiſing to carry her to our Inn, I brought her to our Club; there by the Captains order we had a little Table prepared for us three, and after we were refreſhed from the wearineſs our journey had cauſed in us. We deſired the Stranger to tell the reaſon of her Travels, for ſhe

was

was a perſon truly beautiful, and that ought to have been reſpected by all Men.

Her Relation.

I Am, ſaid ſhe, though not the pooreſt, yet the unhappieſt of my Sex: For as I walked two days ago in the *Palle Malle* at *Orleans*, I perceived two young men both of comely ſtature, coming towards me: They appeared both like Angels to me; but the firſt I ſaw, ſo employed my eyes, that I had no time to view the other. He had already conquered me at a diſtance, and had no need to attempt it again; nevertheleſs he came to me, and defired me, nay, forced me by his charming words to yeild to his will: A thing that all the World ſhall never force from me again, though they rack me to death, excepting him that hath done it. It is for his ſake, that I have ſtoln away from my Friends, who are able Citizens of *Orleans*, diſ-inherited my ſelf of all I can expect from them, either to find him out that hath ſtoln away my heart,

or

or to free my ſelf from the ſhame that muſt neceſſarily fall upon me, if this matter be known.

Here her tears ſtopt her words, but they added a luſter to her Beauty. And though for modeſty, all the while ſhe made this relation ſhe had fixed her eyes upon the ground, and could not know the Captains face; yet he ſoon remembred hers, and that ſhe was the perſon he enjoyed at *Orleans*; and not able to contain himſelf, her Beauty was ſo great, and his pitty no leſs, he ran, and embracing her. I am the man, ſaid he, that you ſeek, that have been the cauſe of your misfortune: And ſince you have given me ſo manifeſt a ſign, that you are a vertuous Woman, I ſhall to morrow make thee my Wife, and afterwards we will go and viſit thy Friends. Then he bid her forget her ſorrow, for he gave her manifeſt tokens that he was the Man.

And now ſhe began to know him by his Speech and Viſage, though in the way her ſorrow had blinded her eyes, and

ſtopt

ſtopt her ears. So he took care for a good Chamber for her in the Town that night, and after much content on all ſides ſhe for her good Fortune, our Captain for his Beautiful Spouſe, and all the company by reaſon of our ſeveral Adventures, parted well ſatisfied with that days events.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXVIII.

He reſcues his Lady from his Rival, then Marrieth her himſelf, and afterwards by a ſtratagem reconciles himſelf to her Parents.

THe next day being Sunday all our Labours ceaſed, except my Love,

Hoc animi tam triſte, bonum tam dulce venenum.
Quotidie crudele magis creſcebat in horas,
Ut calor.

And by ſo much the more was I inflamed, becauſe I ſaw my companion ſo happy in his fair Miſtriſs, and my ſelf onely croſſed by a baſe and villainous Rival, this Rage augmented my valour, and ſet all my Faculties to work how I might fruſtrate his deſigns, and the next morning was no ſooner come, but I went to my companions; I have, ſaid I, a ſmall buſineſs in hand, my Friends, but ſince it concerns my private intereſt alone, and there is no publick benefit ariſing from it, if you

are

are willing to help me in it, I ſhall give you a good Feaſt and a Tearſe of Claret to make merry.; by my promiſe, and by the Captains Commands, who underſtood the whole matter I intended; for I acquainted him with it as we came from *Orleans*, and by the propenſion every one had to help his Companion in any thing that might concur to his welfare; they all unanimouſly conſented to be ready on Tueſday morning by break of day. In the mean time I prepared all things ready for our Marriage; I viſited the Prieſt, and entertained him nobly at a Banquet; telling him how by her Unkles conſent he was deſired to marry me to his Neece the next morning, and ſhewed him the Note written with her Unkles hand, he knew it, and wiſhed me all happineſs: ſo I deſired him it might be done with all poſſible haſt and ſecreſie as ſoon as we came, which would be early in the morning, and then took my leave.

The light no ſooner broke into our Horizon the next morning, but we were already ſeven in number on horſeback; ſo we marched towards *La Beauſe*, there we ſtay'd in an Inn till ſuch times the Lady came

came by, ſhe was accompanied onely with the Lawyers man that rid before; we let her paſs a good way, and then we ſet out afterwards, till coming to a place more eminent then the reſt, we had a full view of all the ſubjacent declivity. Here we watched what would become of her, and preſently there paſſed by us in great ſpeed four Horſemen, theſe I ſuppoſed my Rivals, but willing to let her underſtand I was her ſervant, and that ſhe ſhould be an eye-witneſs of it, I let them paſs, in ſmall time they had overtaken the Lady, diſmounted her by force, and notwithſtanding her Tears and Cries, were carrying her away. It was now no time to delay, for we were almoſt halfe a Leagues diſtance from them; nevertheleſs the goodneſs of our Horſes ſoon got ground of them, and in a quarter of an hours time, notwithſtanding the ſpeed they made to be gone, we overtook them. My anger gave me no leiſure to ſpeak, but I ran ſo furiouſly on them before they were aware, that I diſmounted two of them, but not intending to diſpute it with the hindmoſt, I proceeded to him that had the Lady; Sir, ſaid I, deliver up this Lady that ſo wrong-

wrongfully you have forced and are now carrying away, or your Life ſhall pay for your Treachery; he was ſurprized ſo extremely at our arrival and my words, that he could not make a ready anſwer, and I was ſo impatient as not to expect it; but unwilling to kill him before her face, for fear to fright her, and incur her diſpleaſure, I alighted and helped her from her Horſe, ſhe was no ſooner down, and I on foot, but the coward taking this advantage, came upon me as he was on horſeback with his ſword in his hand, and if our Captain who was as forward in the aſſault for my ſake, as I was my ſelf, had not defended the blow, my life had been in great danger; in ſhort, our Number, our Courage, and our Cauſe, ſoon gave us the victory, and after a few blows we put our enemies to flight: the tumult thus appeaſed; Noble Sir, ſaid the Lady, for this act aſſureth me you are ſuch, give me leave to know to what worthy perſon I am obliged for this ſuccor, for next to my Parents that gave me life, I am moſt indebted to you that have defended it ſo well. Madam, ſaid I, I ſhould want ſome of that worth which you impute, if

I ſhould deny your Requeſt; know then I am one of thoſe that have been ſo happy as to love you ſecretly without daring to reveal my paſſion, till ſuch times I had merited your Favour by ſome Noble ſervice; and have ever been ſince the firſt time I ſaw you, as ſtudious for your welfare as my own, which made me, when by a Letter that was found and brought to me, I underſtood the danger you were like to incur in your journey to *Paris*, engage theſe my friends on your behalf, and that you may be certified of the truth, ſee, here is the Letter of the treacherous *Loret* which he writ to his Confederate *Moneur*; and here is another of your Unkles own writing: ſhe peruſed the firſt with a great deal of anger towards *Loret* and his Companions, the latter with a great deal of aſtoniſhment, and modeſt bluſhes, till ſatisfied at laſt with the truth, and by ſeveral circumſtances concurring, thinking it a thing ordained by Fate, that ſhe ſhould marry the preſerver of her Honour; ſhe conſented to goe with us to *La Beauſs*, there were we married, and having paſſed away the day in great merriment, I lay there that night.

In gremio dulcig ſinu niveisque Lacertis.
Cætera quis neſcit? laſsi requievimus ambo.

CHAP. XXIX.

He is reconciled to his Wives friends; the Captain marrieth his own Spouſe, they both leave the Society of Thieves, one departeth to Orleans, *the other to* Paris.

THe next morning our Captain to compleat the Adventure, ſent for his Spouſe from *Eſtampes*, and was married to her by the ſame Prieſt, which cauſed us to ſtay there one day longer: afterwards I made my Feaſt that I had promiſed to my Companions, and before them all declared, that I was deſirous for the preſent to leave the Society; but becauſe my Horſe, Piſtols, and Boots, and the like, which according to our Laws were to be left for the publick good, would be ſerviceable to me in my jour-

ney

ney to *Paris*, I desired they would take the value of them in Money; so they were valued, and I laid down the price; our Captain who was driven to the Trade more by Necessity then any natural Inclination, did the like, then did we bring in our Ladies, and after much Mirth and Joy we all parted, the Captain with his Lady to *Orleans* to her Friends, the rest to their Club at *Estampes*, and I with my Wife to *Paris*. Her friends at first were much astonished and incensed at the Marriage, but understanding at last how I had saved her Honour, and appeased by the Meciation of her Friends and the Damsels Tears, whose Heart I had already wonne, and knowing it was impossible now to part us, considering likewise that she was their onely Child and Heir to their Honour and Estate, and what Disgrace would come upon them if they rejected her, they caused a great feast to be made, and calling many of the chief Citizens their Friends together, they celebrated our Marriage-Feast with the greatest Solemnity imaginable, and afterward gave

their Daughter a Portion ſuitable to her great Beauty.

Sit licet in natos facies auſtera Parentum,
Æqua tamen ſemper mens eſt, & amica voluntas.

Upon

Upon the Author of this ingenious Work by his Friend.

SUrround his Head, Triumphant Lawrels now,
And with a Glorious Branch adorn his Brow.
For now he has overcome, and in the Breaſt
Of his Beloved takes a gentle reſt.
So when the Marriage is concluded, all
The Play is done, the Curtains are let fall.

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